



AP Sources:

Obama Poised to Act on Immigration Soon

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President Barack Obama speaks in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. Obama is poised to act soon to unveil a series of executive actions on immigration, according to advocates in touch with the White House.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)



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Obama, Myanmar's Suu Kyi to meet

JULIE PACE

Associated Press

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP) — When President Barack Obama meets with Myanmar's opposition icon Aung San Suu Kyi on Friday, he will encounter a figure in the midst of an evolu-

wants to lead the country, help it develop, she has to do the same."

Rights activists have suggested that Suu Kyi's caution reflects her fears of alienating military lawmakers who still control a quarter of the seats in

spoken of his admiration for her, heralding the "unbreakable courage and determination" of his fellow Nobel Peace Prize laureate during his first trip to Myanmar in 2012. The White House has also gone out of its



U.S. President Barack Obama, center, shakes hands at the U.S.-ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) meeting at the Myanmar International Convention Center, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014 in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. With Obama are from left to right: Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Thailand Prime Minister Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha; Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung; Myanmar President Thein Sein; Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak; and Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

tion he finds familiar: the shift from history-making trailblazer to establishment politician.

Four years after being released from house arrest, Suu Kyi is now a member of Myanmar's Parliament and has been pushing for changes to a constitutional provision that is blocking her path to the presidency. While the 69-year-old Suu Kyi remains beloved by many in this long-isolated Southeast Asian nation, however, she's come under criticism for failing to take a tougher line against the country's former military leaders and for staying largely silent about the abuse of Muslim minorities that could jeopardize Myanmar's fitful move toward democracy.

"Mahatma Gandhi unequivocally denounced all forms of intolerance and so did Nelson Mandela," Jody Williams, a Nobel Prize-winning American human rights activist, said of two figures with whom Suu Kyi is often compared. "If she

Parliament. Obama administration officials agree that some of her decisions appear to be driven by political motivations, particularly her reluctance to address the plight of the Rohingya Muslims who are deeply disdained by most people in Myanmar.

Obama and Suu Kyi met briefly Thursday on the sidelines of a regional summit in Naypyitaw, the capital city that Myanmar's former military leaders secretly built in the middle of the jungle in the early 2000s.

The city has the lush hotels and impressive public buildings of a modern capital, but its vast empty spaces and eerily empty multilane highways have led to its reputation as something of a ghost town. On Friday, Obama flies to the city of Yangon to hold more substantial talks with Suu Kyi at the lakeside home where she spent much of her confinement.

The U.S. president has often

way to promote Suu Kyi in its overtures to Myanmar, with Obama notably holding his news conference on this trip with the opposition leader, not the country's president, Thein Sein.

Obama's own compelling personal history includes none of the hardships endured by Suu Kyi, who was confined for more than two decades and whose father, the founder of the Burmese Independence Army, was assassinated. But Obama — whose election as America's first black president was seen as a precursor to broader political changes in Washington — shares with Suu Kyi the experience of having sky-high expectations deflated amid political realities.

That's been true for Obama both in the U.S., where his poll numbers have sagged and his party just suffered devastating defeats in midterm elections, as well as abroad. □

Message from Islamic State leader emerges

DIAA HADID

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — In a recording released days after he was reported to be wounded in an airstrike, the leader of the Islamic State group said the U.S.-led coalition's campaign had failed and it would eventually have to send ground troops into battle. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi urged his followers to "explode the volcanoes of jihad everywhere," according to the 17-minute message posted online Thursday. The recording appeared authentic, matching previous ones from the group.

The statement surfaced four days after Iraqi officials said al-Baghdadi was wounded in an airstrike in Iraq. It was not clear when the recording was made, but there were references to events since the weekend — including pledges of allegiance to the IS group by militants in Libya and Egypt.

It also was unclear why the message was only an audio recording. Al-Baghdadi has made only one public appearance since declaring himself caliph, delivering a sermon at a mosque sermon in June in the Iraqi city of Mosul. An earlier audio recording from him is believed to have inspired militants in Algeria to behead a French national.

The latest recording was his first since the U.S. and other partners in the alliance began an air campaign against the extremist fighters in both Iraq and Syria. Other messages from the group, including videos of U.S. and British captives being beheaded by the group, have shown other speakers.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said the coalition had made progress against the militants since beginning its efforts in September.

"ISIL's advance in parts of Iraq has stalled, and in some cases been re-

versed, by Iraqi, Kurdish, and tribal forces supported by U.S. and coalition airstrikes," Hagel said in testimony to the House Armed Services Committee, using an acronym for the Islamic State group. "But ISIL continues to represent a serious threat to American interests, our allies, and the Middle East ... and wields influence over a broad swath of territory in western and northern Iraq and eastern Syria."

The mostly Sunni extremists have seized large parts of Syria and Iraq. They later announced their proto-state straddling the two countries, where they have implemented a violent interpretation of Islamic law, including public beheadings, massacring rebellious tribes and selling women and children of religious minorities into slavery.

President Barack Obama had authorized the deployment of advisory teams and trainers to bolster struggling Iraqi forces. Obama's plan could boost the total number of American troops in Iraq to 3,100. There are about 1,400 U.S. troops there, out of the 1,600 previously authorized.

Al-Baghdadi said in his statement that the coalition effort had failed to repel his fighters.

"They thought and they estimated, they planned and they conspired, and they prepared to hit the Islamic State, and then they emerged with a failed plan that was to shell the sites of the Islamic State, and its brigades and its vehicles and its soldiers to halt its advance ... but quickly the failure of this plan was apparent," he said. "Soon the Jews and Crusaders will be forced to descend to earth, and to send its ground forces to its end and destruction, by God's will."

He pointed to the announcement of additional troops as proof the airstrikes were not working. □

Republicans pick leaders for US Senate and House



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. smiles on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014, after being chosen by acclamation of the GOP rank-and-file to be the new Senate majority leader when the new Congress convenes in January.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—When the new U.S. Congress convenes in January, one of the most powerful people in Washington will be Mitch McConnell, the next Senate majority leader. McConnell, 72, was chosen at a closed-door meeting of the party rank and file, a Senate Republican official said Thursday. McConnell's ascension comes after Republicans swept to a majority in the Senate in last week's elections, leaving them with at least 53 seats in the 100-seat chamber and hoping for another in

a Louisiana runoff election Dec. 6. McConnell will set the agenda in the Senate, which Republicans will control for the first time in eight years. Along with Republican John Boehner, speaker of the House of Representatives, McConnell will decide what legislation is sent to the White House in the final two years of President Barack Obama's presidency. Democrats have assailed him in recent campaigns as a guardian of gridlock for his opposition to nearly all of Obama's initiatives. But he also brokered bipartisan deals that

ended last year's government shutdown and averted a 2011 federal default. McConnell, who was re-elected to his Senate seat last week, is a conservative and does not have much charisma. But his 30 years in the Senate have made him a masterful political tactician. One of his challenges will be keeping in line conservative tea party-aligned Republicans who would like to see him take more hard-line positions. Neither McConnell nor Boehner faced public opposition on the eve of Thursday's party elections in closed door meetings. Boehner, 65, is in line to become leader of the House for a third term, also one of the pre-eminent positions in Washington. Like McCo-

nnell, his years in the lower chamber have made him skilled in legislative maneuvering and he also has had difficulties in the past keeping the more conservative Republican members of the House in line. The Republicans also padded their majority in the 435-member House, where a handful of races remain unresolved. Republicans are on track to equal or eclipse the 246 seats they won in 1946, a figure that stands as a post-World War II high. Despite sizable election losses, Democrats appeared ready to hand their own leaders another two years at the helm, postponing a generational change that appears not far in the future. □

Failures is cited in US Secret Service probe

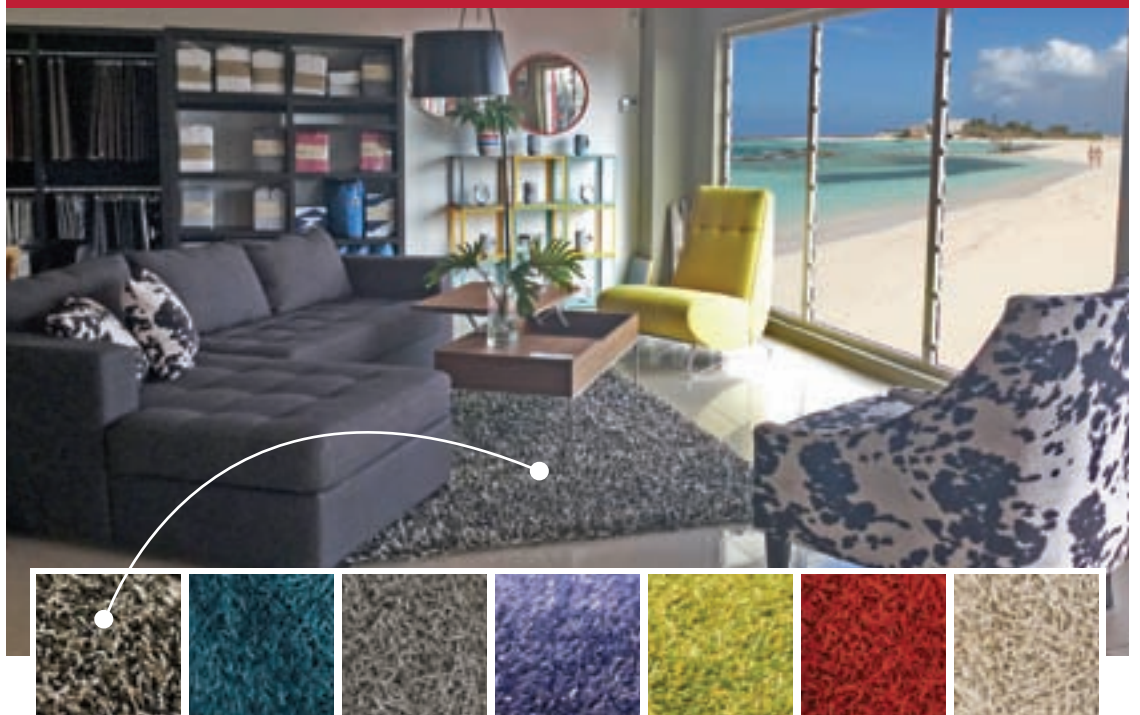
ALICIA A. CALWELL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Homeland Security Department has concluded that a series of critical security failures, including poor training and a lack of communication, led to the September breach of the White House by a man armed with a small knife. An executive summary of the department's review of the Sept. 19 incident says several Secret Service officers on duty that night didn't even see accused

White House intruder Omar Gonzalez climb a White House fence because their view of the grounds was blocked by a construction project. There was also communication problems, including emergency receivers inside the White House put on mute. Investigators also found that members of the emergency response team didn't know the layout of the White House and hesitated to go into the mansion after Gonzalez. □

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Obama Poised to Act on Immigration Soon

**ALICIA CALDWELL
ERICA WERNER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

President Barack Obama is poised to act soon to unveil a series of executive actions on immigration that will shield possibly around 5 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally from deportation, according to advocates in touch with the White House.

The estimate includes extending deportation protections to parents and spouses of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have been in the country for some years. The president is also likely to expand his 2-year-old program that protects young immigrants from deportation.

Timing of the announcement is unclear, though it's expected before the end of the year. White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Obama would review final recommendations after returning from his Asia trip next week.

Congressional Republicans are strongly opposed to Obama's plans, and as lawmakers returned to Capitol Hill this week fol-



Speaker of the House John Boehner, R-Ohio, takes questions as he meets with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014. With President Barack Obama poised to unveil a series of executive actions on immigration, Boehner said "We're going to fight the president tooth and nail if he continues down this path. This is the wrong way to govern. This is exactly what the American people said on Election Day they didn't want."

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

House and Senate announced plans to push for language in must-pass spending bills to block the president from acting. But other Republicans warned that such a push could result in another government shutdown like the one last year over Obama's health care plan.

"My sense is that the vast majority of us want to do everything we can to stop it, but also want to avoid outcomes that would prove bad for the country as a whole," said Sen. Marco Rubio, a Republican and possible 2016 presidential contender. It wasn't clear, though, what other options Republicans had.

The advocates, who spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of a public announcement, said that final details of the plan remained in flux. But the White House is likely to include parents and spouses of U.S. citizens and permanent residents, stipulating that they've resided in the U.S. for some period of time — possibly as little as five years. That group totals around 3.8 million people, according to the Migration Policy Institute. Although Obama is not able to grant citizenship or permanent resident green cards on his own without Congress, he can offer temporary protection from deportation along with work authorization, as he has done in the past. Adjustments also are expected to the existing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that allowed immigrants under 31 who had arrived before June 2007 to apply for a reprieve from deportation and a work permit. □

lowing last week's elections in which the Republicans retook control of the the Senate, they vowed to oppose him.

"We're going to fight the president tooth and nail if he continues down this path. This is the wrong way to govern. This is exactly what the American people said on Election Day they didn't want," House Speaker John Boehner, a Republican, said Thursday. "And so, all the options are on the table."

Some conservatives in the

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Brown family lawyers urge restraint in Ferguson



Michael Brown family attorney Benjamin Crump, right, speaks to media in front of the Buzz Westfall Justice Center in Clayton, Mo., on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014. Brown's stepfather, Louis Head, is at left. Attorneys for the family of Michael Brown are urging restraint by both protesters and police once a grand jury decides whether the suburban St. Louis officer who shot him should face charges. (AP Photo/St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Robert Cohen)

ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

Associated Press

CLAYTON, Missouri (AP) — Attorneys for the family of an 18-year-old, unarmed black man shot dead by

police are urging restraint by both protesters and police once a grand jury decides whether the suburban St. Louis officer who shot him should face charges.

Attorneys Anthony Gray and Benjamin Crump held a press conference Thursday outside a county facility, where the grand jury is meeting and Dr. Michael

Baden, who performed a private autopsy on the family's behalf, was testifying. Michael Brown's parents, who were in Geneva this week as the U.N. Committee Against Torture heard testimony about U.S. policies, did not attend. Their attorneys echoed Gov. Jay Nixon's call for protesters to avoid rioting, looting and violence, but faulted him for not also calling on police to exercise restraint. Police were widely criticized for using armored vehicles and tear gas to respond to mostly peaceful but occasionally violent protests in the days after Ferguson Officer Darren Wilson shot Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old, after telling him to stop walking in the street.

Wilson told investigators he felt threatened while fighting with Brown from inside a police SUV, where an initial shot was fired, according to information provided to news outlets by people described as familiar with the investigation, but not otherwise identified. Those same accounts said Wilson told investigators that after Brown fled the vehicle, he turned around in a threatening manner, prompting Wilson to fire the fatal shots. Some witnesses said Brown had his hands up. Crump said attorneys would not talk about Baden's testimony, except to say he had identified one additional entry wound in Brown's chest after seeing results of an autopsy by the medical examiner. Crump did not elaborate.

Ambush suspect charged with terrorism

BLOOMING GROVE, Pennsylvania (AP) — Authorities have added terrorism charges against a man accused of ambushing a Pennsylvania State Police barracks and killing a trooper, and they say he told them he wanted to "wake people up." State police say Eric Frein called the Sept. 12 slaying

of Cpl. Bryon Dickson an "assassination" in an interview after his capture. Police filed the additional counts on Thursday. He was already charged with first-degree murder. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. In court papers, police say they found a letter addressed to "Mom and

Dad" on a thumb drive belonging to Frein. They quote the letter as saying that only a revolution "can get us back the liberties we once had." Frein is accused of opening fire outside the Blooming Grove barracks, killing Dickson and seriously wounding another trooper.

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Oil and politics: A senator scraps for survival

DAVID ESPO
DINA CAPPIELLO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a blend of crude oil and raw politics, Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu scrapped on Thursday for converts among fellow Democrats for legislation to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline before a runoff election that threatens to end her career in Congress.

The White House said President Barack Obama took a "dim view" of the bill but did not explicitly threaten a veto. Even so, Senate Democratic officials said the party's leadership agreed to give Landrieu room to try and pass the measure only after receiving assurances that Obama would not sign it.

The maneuvering took place as House Republicans readied a vote for Friday on their own identical pipeline bill — advanced by Rep. Bill Cassidy, who is Landrieu's rival in the Dec. 6 runoff. Landrieu led in a first round of voting last week, but Cassidy is favored to win the runoff, leaving Landrieu in urgent need of a way to shake up the race.

Landrieu sought to cast herself as an independent-minded lawmaker as she maneuvered for supporters for her bill in the Senate and for votes back home. "My leadership didn't give me permission to do this. Nobody asked me to do it," she said in remarks on the Senate floor.

The Senate Republican leader, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, offered a different view. "We never would have gotten to this point without the tireless leadership of Senator Hoeven in the Senate and Congressman Cassidy in the House," he said. Sen. John Hoeven

of North Dakota is the bill's leading Republican supporter in the Senate.

Adding another layer of political complexity, Republicans said if the bill doesn't become law in the

Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., has worked to prevent its passage.

If the political maneuvering was thick, the issue itself was relatively straightforward.

off announcing any decision pending a Supreme Court ruling in Nebraska on a challenge to the law that allowed the route of the pipeline to be set. Obama has long said his administra-



Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La. acknowledges supporters in New Orleans. In a blend of crude oil and raw politics, Landrieu scrapped on Thursday for converts among fellow Democrats for legislation to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline before a runoff election that threatens to end her career in Congress.

(AP Photo/Bill Haber)

next several days, they will make it a priority after a new Congress convenes in January, when they will have a majority in both houses and increased leverage over Obama.

"We aren't finished. We'll pass it as either part of broader energy legislation or as an amendment to another must-pass bill, either in the lame duck or in the new Congress," said Hoeven.

The GOP-controlled House has voted several times to approve the pipeline, which would move oil from Canada to the Gulf Coast of the U.S. Legislation on the issue has always fallen victim to gridlock in the Senate, where Majority

Supporters say construction of the pipeline is critical if the United States is to achieve energy security after decades of relying on oil imports that can fluctuate unpredictably in price. They also cite estimates that the pipeline would create thousands of jobs. But the project divides Democrats, with environmentalists in opposition while some unions as well as energy-state and business-minded lawmakers support it.

The Sierra Club issued a statement opposing the measure, as did Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., who urged Obama to veto the bill if it reaches his desk.

The administration has put

tion would make a final decision based on the pipeline's estimated impact on climate change.

Supporters of the measure appeared to have at least 58 of the 60 votes they would need for approval next week. That included all 45 Republicans as well as 13 Democrats, among them Delaware Sen. Tom Carper, whose office confirmed his support during the day.

Other officials said Landrieu had a commitment from one more Democrat, whom they declined to name. Democrats who are leaving the Senate at year's end appear to offer Landrieu the most hope in her search for 60 votes.

Nigerian man arrested in US online scam

AMY BETH HANSON
Associated Press

A Nigerian resident faces charges that he set up an online dating profile using a photo of Montana's attorney general and falsified stories about overseas business problems to scam several women.

Felony charges against Kazeem Owonla were filed last month in Indiana, where one woman reported sending more than \$100,000 to a man who represented himself as John Tony Hagan, an electrical engineer who was working in Egypt.

Owonla, 44, was arrested Wednesday when he got off an airplane in Atlanta and waived extradition to Indiana Thursday during a hearing in a magistrate court. Public records did not indicate if Owonla has an attorney.

His bond in Indiana is set at \$150,000 cash, enough to cover the women's losses, prosecutors said.

The woman said Hagen told her he needed money to replace his stolen tools. She said she sent him \$5,600. The woman also responded to requests for \$12,000 to pay his workers and for \$25,000 to replace money that was supposedly stolen when his interpreter was stabbed after they made a bank withdrawal. In June, the woman provided investigators with receipts showing she wired or made bank transfers totaling more than \$100,000 to the man she believed was Hagan, court records said. "It got pretty intense fairly quickly," the woman told WNDU-TV in July on the condition the station not use her name because she was embarrassed that she fell for the scam.



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US Financial Front:

American companies hire at fastest pace in 7 years



Air conditioning, heating and refrigeration technology students, from left, Jeramy Long, Daniel Ferguson and John Zak work on a HVAC unit in the classroom at the Cape Fear Community College downtown campus in Wilmington, N.C. U.S. companies ramped up hiring in September, and more Americans were confident enough to quit their jobs — two signs of a steadily improving economy.

(AP Photo/The Star-News, Mike Spencer)

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. companies ramped up hiring in September, and more Americans were confident enough to quit

their jobs — two signs of a steadily improving economy. The number of available jobs declined but remained at a healthy level. More than 5 million people were hired in September,

the most since December 2007 when the recession began, the Labor Department said Thursday. And the number of people who quit their jobs jumped to 2.75 million from 2.5 million. That's the most in more than six years.

More quitting and hiring means that the job market is becoming more dynamic, which creates additional opportunities for the unemployed. Greater quitting is a good sign for several reasons: People are more likely to leave jobs when they have a new position lined up, usually one that is higher-paying. Workers also quit when they are more confident they can find a new job. And quits open

more positions that can be filled by those out of work, or by people seeking higher pay.

"If this pickup is sustained it will add to the evidence that wage acceleration is likely in 2015," said Jeremy Schwartz, an economist at Credit Suisse.

Job openings fell to 4.7 million from 4.9 million in August. Still, August's figure was the highest in nearly 14 years, and September's figure remains strong.

The data is from the Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey, or JOLTS, which provides a more detailed look at the job market than the monthly employment report. It includes figures for overall hiring, as well as the

number of quits and layoffs. The monthly jobs figures are a net total of job gains or losses.

The increase in hiring suggests that companies are filling more of their open jobs. That's important because earlier in the recovery, net job gains occurred mostly because layoffs fell. Thursday's report shows that gross hiring is now picking up.

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen has cited the level of quits as a key indicator of job market health. She and other Fed officials are monitoring it and other data from the report as they consider when to raise short-term interest rates from near-zero levels.

Applications for U.S. jobless aid climb slightly to 290,000

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — More people sought U.S. unemployment benefits last week, but the increase wasn't sharp enough to disrupt the job market's positive momentum. The Labor Department said Thursday that weekly applications rose 12,000 to a seasonally adjusted 290,000. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, increased 6,000 to 285,000, up slightly from what had the lowest average in more than 14 years. "This increase is nothing to worry about; seasonal

quirks pointed clearly to an increase, and we are relieved the number was not higher," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. He projected that at the current pace of unemployment applications, the U.S. economy should add roughly 250,000 jobs net each month. Applications are a proxy for layoffs. The four-week average has plunged 17.2 percent in the past year, a sign that businesses feel more confident about their prospects, are holding onto workers and potentially looking to amplify hiring.

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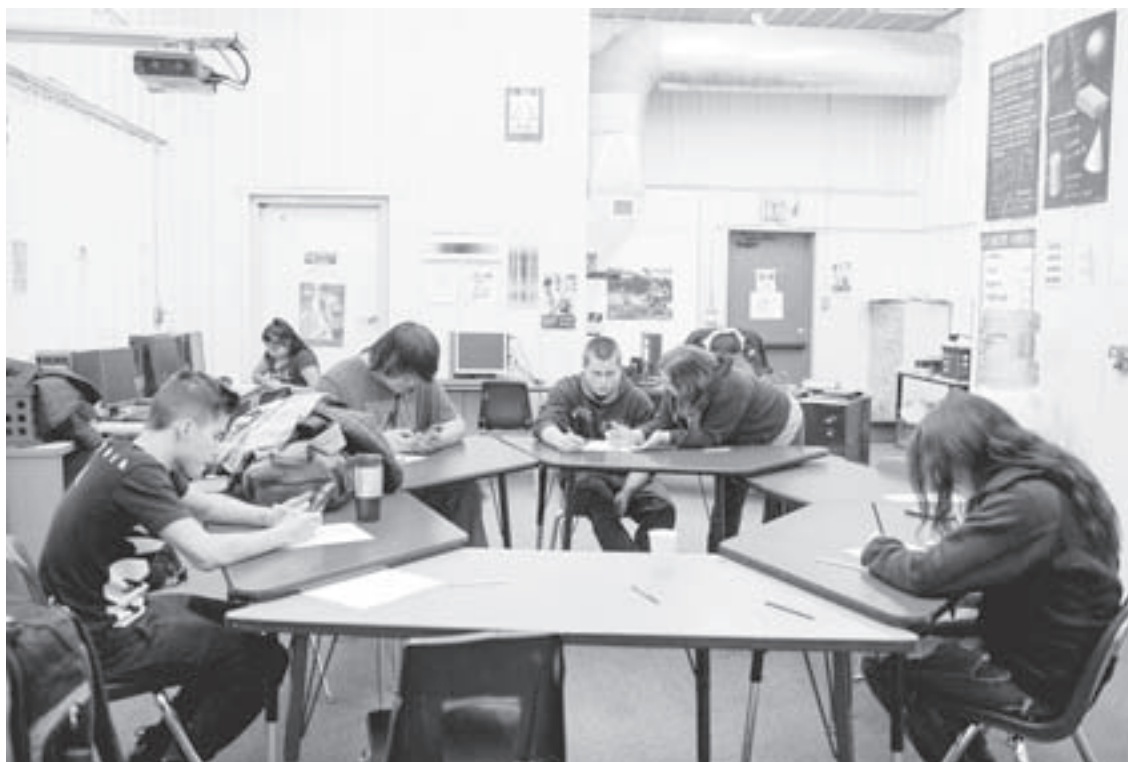
American Living: Schools for Native Americans await much-needed overhaul

MITCH SMITH

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BENA, Minn. - When temperatures drop and snow falls, students bundle themselves in heavy coats inside Marlene Stately's classroom. Winter comes early and bites hard on this Indian reservation in northern Minnesota, and the pole barn that houses part of the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School offers limited protection from the elements. "I think we need a new school," Stately said last month after her upper-grade students had practiced introducing themselves in the Ojibwe language. "It's cold here in the wintertime. They're not comfortable. And how can you learn when you're freezing?"

In the federal Bureau of Indian Education system, the dreadful facilities of Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig - named for a late member of the tribe - are far from unique. The network of about 185 congressionally funded schools in 23 states is in the midst of



A high school classroom in Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation in Bena, Minn. Like many schools in the federal Bureau of Indian Education system, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig is in dreadful disrepair — a state which the superintendent says is to blame for a steep drop in enrollment.

(Jenn Ackerman/The New York Times)

a broad overhaul, but decades of neglect have left reservations with schools where students struggle to meet academic standards, turnover among

educators is high and the buildings are often in decay.

Students at Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig speak highly of their teachers - the school is "like a family," said Terrance Warner, a senior who plans to join the Army after graduation - and administrators work to ingrain Ojibwe culture in the curriculum. Still, school leaders say, there is a toll taken by the chilly classrooms and the poorly ventilated science lab where students cannot conduct experiments.

"If the kids are going into a school with a leaky roof and a bad smell, that's a value thing, that nobody cares," said Crystal Redgrave, the superintendent of Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig, who said she suspected the condition of the building had contributed to a steep drop in enrollment, which is now about 200 students. "But if they go to a well-equipped school, they'd see people really do care."

Officials at the U.S. Department of the Interior, which oversees the bureau, say they are working to improve schools like Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig. But with limited funding and a huge backlog of repairs -

the government estimates that it would cost \$1.3 billion to restore all buildings to good condition - some administrators and students wonder when they will see the fruits of those policies.

"I think everyone agrees that our children deserve better, but these are tough budget times and it's difficult," said Charles Roessel, the director of the Indian education bureau. "It's a priority for us."

The bureau's challenges extend far beyond bricks and mortar.

On a national reading assessment in 2011, fourth-graders at the bureau's schools scored 22 points lower on a 500-point scale than their Native American peers in other public schools, a scathing review from the U.S. Government Accountability Office found. In addition to consistently poor test scores, the report highlighted a sub-par graduation rate and confusing layers of bureaucracy that create a disconnect between national policy and classrooms.

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell has ordered a restructuring that seeks to shift the federal role from creating curriculum and

directly administering far-flung schools to providing support and funding to local leaders who would call the shots. The hope, she said, is to shore up facilities and give the schools the means to teach culturally relevant lessons and improve their academics.

That tribe-first approach is vital to turning around the schools, said William Mendoza, who is leading a White House initiative to improve education of Native Americans.

"We've tried just about everything in education except enlist the tribes to affect their own school systems in a more positive way," said Mendoza, who is Oglala-Sicangu Lakota and attended bureau schools as a child in South Dakota, then taught in them. "That's the important component."

Like about two-thirds of bureau schools, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig is operated by a local school board authorized by the tribe, known as the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Jewell's order calls for transitioning the remaining 60 or so schools to tribal oversight, and providing more efficient funding and support for the entire system. For schools that are already administered locally, the changes could lead to more resources like expanded teacher training or broadband installation. Skepticism of Washington reformers permeates many reservations, where the federal government's fraught history of educating Native American children has left a painful legacy. For decades, national policy sought to strip the children of their culture and language in an effort to "Westernize" them. Those efforts were disavowed long ago, but many federally run Indian schools have continued to struggle. Jewell, who visited Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig in August, said that in an effort to build trust, she listens closely but does not offer guarantees when meeting with tribal leaders. □



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Officials:

Russia to curtail nuclear security efforts with US in 2015

MICHAEL R. GORDON
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MOSCOW/WASHINGTON

Russia has informed the United States that it is planning to reduce its participation next year in a joint effort to secure nuclear materials on Russian territory, a move that could seriously undermine more than two decades of cooperation aimed at ensuring that nuclear bomb components do not fall into the hands of terrorists or a rogue state.

Sergey V. Kirienko, the head of Russia's state nuclear company, has told senior Obama administra-

tion officials that no new projects in Russia are "envisioned" in 2015, according to U.S. officials.

The officials still hope to persuade the Russians to continue work next year on some current projects, though Russian officials have yet to agree.

The reduced cooperation is a byproduct of the general downturn in relations between Russia and the U.S., which has been compounded by President Vladimir V. Putin's decision to intervene militarily in Ukraine. But it also stems from long-standing concerns among Kremlin hard-



Russian President Vladimir Putin in Beijing. Russia has informed the United States that it is planning to reduce its participation next year in a joint effort to secure nuclear materials on Russian territory.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

liners about a program that brings U.S. nuclear experts to Russia's nuclear sites and that, they fear, may create

the impression that Russia is in need of outside help. The message delivered by Kirienko represents the first

time that the rising tensions between the Kremlin and the Obama administration have threatened to disrupt some of the practical efforts that the two sides initiated at the end of the Cold War to help Russia safeguard its nuclear materials.

"There is a real danger that 20 years of U.S.-Russian cooperation to secure nuclear material will simply stop at the end of this year, and some of the gains we have made could slip away," said Matthew Bunn, a Harvard professor who, during the administration of Bill Clinton, supervised a classified government study on protecting nuclear materials in Russia.

Dutch NATO F-16s intercept Russian transport plane: AP

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Two Dutch F-16 fighter jets taking part in a NATO mission to protect the skies above the Baltics intercepted a Russian military transport plane, the Netherlands' defense ministry said Thursday.

The ministry said the Russian plane was intercepted Wednesday evening after it flew into international airspace north of Estonia and Lithuania without giving a flight plan. The F-16s escorted the plane out of the Baltic airspace.

In Moscow, the Russian Defense Ministry said an Il-76 military transport plane flew from the northwestern city of Pskov to Russia's westernmost Kaliningrad exclave over the Baltics in "strict accordance with international rules of using airspace."

Dutch F-16s taking part in NATO's Air Policing Task Force are based in Malbork, Poland. Wednesday was the first time they have

been scrambled to intercept a plane.

Last month, the Western military alliance reported an "unusual" spike in Russian military flights over the Black, Baltic and North seas and the Atlantic Ocean over two days in late October.

Alliance military spokesman Lt. Col. Jay Janzen said on Oct. 29 that four groups made up of Tu-95 Bear H strategic bombers, MiG-31 fighters and other Russian warplanes had been conducting large-scale maneuvers in international airspace.

Tensions have been running high between NATO and Moscow since Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in March.

According to NATO officials, alliance pilots have conducted more than 100 intercepts of Russian aircraft this year alone, or about three times more than in 2013.

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AP sources: IS, al-Qaida reach accord in Syria

DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Militant leaders from the Islamic State group and al-Qaida gathered at a farm house in northern Syria last week and agreed on a plan to stop fighting each other and work together against their opponents, a high-level Syrian opposition official and a rebel commander have told The Associated Press. Such an accord could present new difficulties for Washington's strategy against the IS group. While warplanes from a U.S.-led coalition strike militants from the air, the Obama administration has counted on arming "moderate" rebel factions to push them back on the ground. Those

rebels, already considered relatively weak and disorganized, would face far stronger opposition if the two heavy-hitting militant groups now are working together. IS — the group that has seized nearly a third of Syria and Iraq with a campaign of brutality and beheadings this year — and al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria, known as the Nusra Front, have fought each other bitterly for more than a year to dominate the rebellion against Syrian President Bashar Assad. The Associated Press reported late last month on signs that the two groups appear to have curtailed their feud with informal local truces. Their new agreement, according to



Fighters from the Islamic State group parade in Raqqa, north Syria. In the early dawn of Nov. 2, militant leaders with the Islamic State group and al-Qaida gathered at a farm house in northern Syria and sealed a deal to stop fighting each other and work together against their opponents,

a prominent Syrian opposition official and a rebel commander said.

(AP Photo/RMCIS, File)

the sources in rebel groups opposed to both IS and Nusra Front, would involve a promise to stop fighting and team up in attacks in some areas of northern Syria.

Cooperation, however, would fall short of unifying the rival groups, and experts believe any pact between the two sides could easily unravel. U.S. intelligence officials have been watching the groups closely and say a full merger is not expected soon — if ever. A U.S. official with access to intelligence about Syria said the American intelligence community has not seen any indications of a shift in the two groups' strategy, but added that he could not rule out tactical deals on the ground. The official insisted on anonymity because he said he was not authorized to speak publicly about the subject.

According to a Syrian opposition official speaking in Turkey, the meeting took place Nov. 2 in the town of Atareb, west of Aleppo, starting at around midnight and lasting until 4 a.m. The official said the meeting was closely followed by members of his movement, and he is certain that an

agreement was reached. The official said about seven top militant leaders attended.

A second source, a commander of brigades affiliated with the Western-backed Free Syrian Army who is known as Abu Musafar, said he also had learned that high-ranking members of Nusra and IS met on Nov. 2.

According to Abu Musafar, two decisions were reached: First, to halt infighting between Nusra and IS and second, for the groups together to open up fronts against Kurdish fighters in a couple of new areas of northern Syria.

The Nusra Front has long been seen as one of the toughest factions trying to oust Assad in a civil war estimated to have killed more than 200,000 since 2011. The Islamic State group entered the Syria war in 2012 from its original home in Iraq and quickly earned a reputation for brutality and for trying to impose itself as the leading faction in the rebellion behind which all pious Muslims should unite. Al-Qaida initially rejected IS's claims to any role in Syria, and Nusra and other factions entered a war-within-a-war against it.

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Mexico: Violent protests hit Acapulco's tourism

ALBERTO ARCE
Associated Press
MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's president has tried to keep the issue of violence separate from his focus on the economy, but the two are converging as violent protests over 43 disappeared students squelch tourism in Acapulco just before a major holiday weekend.

As Mexico prepares to commemorate its 1910 revolution Monday, hotels in the Pacific resort city have seen a wave of cancellations after demonstrators temporarily shut down the airport, blocked highways and attacked government and political offices in the southern state of Guerrero. Acapulco hotel occupancy rates are currently at 20 percent, well short of the 85 percent expected for this

long weekend when Mexicans typically flock to the beaches, Joaquin Badillo, president of the Employers' Association for Guerrero state, said Wednesday. More cancellations have been registered for Christmas week, the busiest time of the year for Acapulco tourism, and Badillo said one company that operates 10 hotels has cut about 200 temporary jobs in recent weeks.

"Seasonal employment in tourism is really being hurt," Badillo said. "We're talking about cleaning workers, security, bartenders, bakers, transportation." Acapulco's beaches were semi-deserted Wednesday except for small groups of sunbathers in the city's famous Gold Zone. The emblematic Papagayo, Condesa and Icacos

beaches were all but empty. The Employers' Association called for a six-month tax waiver to get local businesses through the crisis.

"With that, employees would not lack for salary and the businesses can maintain themselves in good shape," Badillo said. In decades past, Acapulco

was a favored playground of Hollywood movie stars and other international travelers.

While the city's luster has faded, it remains an important draw for domestic tourists.

Organized crime's influence has risen in recent years in both Acapulco and the rest of Guerrero state, accompanied by soaring homicide, kidnapping and other violent crime rates.

As recently as three years ago, 180 cruise ships docked in the city. So far in 2014, just five have made port calls, according to statistics from local business people.

Security concerns have also affected other business sectors. □



Masked teachers detain a police officer during clashes in Chilpancingo, the capital of Guerrero state, Mexico. Supporters of 43 missing college rural students, refusing to believe they are dead, have kept up the protests that have blocked major highways and set government buildings ablaze in recent weeks. The violent protests are squelching tourism in Acapulco just before a major holiday weekend.

(AP Photo/Alejandrino Gonzalez)

Trial is again delayed for Venezuela judge

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A Venezuelan judge whose arrest has sparked international condemnation had her day in court postponed yet again this week.

Maria Lourdes Afiuni was arrested in 2009 after then-President Hugo Chavez objected to her decision to free a banker awaiting trial on charges of violating currency controls. The banker then fled the country and sought asylum in the U.S.

The middle-aged judge was allowed to leave jail in 2011, and freed from house arrest in 2013 on medical grounds as she battles cancer. But she still faces charges of corruption, abuse of authority and aiding an inmate's escape.

She was scheduled to appear in court Wednesday, but the hearing was put off by the court. Her trial has now been suspended for more than a year and her attorneys argue that the delay itself is illegal.

Opposition leaders consider Afiuni among the coun-

try's highest-profile political prisoners. Human rights officials from the United Nations and international groups including Amnesty International have called for her freedom. Venezuela's government says it holds no political prisoners.

Venezuelan Francisco Olivares published a book saying Afiuni told him she was raped in prison in 2010, became pregnant and lost the fetus. Venezuela's head of prisons rejected that allegation as a "vile lie." A day after Afiuni's arrest, Chavez said on television that she should face up to 30 years in prison and critics say the case exemplifies how Chavez and his successor, President Nicolas Maduro, have come to control the judiciary after increasing the size of courts and stocking them with friendly magistrates.

Similar allegations surround the government prosecution of opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, who is held in a military prison despite demands by international organizations that he be freed. □

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Poll:

Latin America Catholics steadily leaving faith

JENNY BARCHFIELD
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Latin Americans born into Roman Catholic families have increasingly left the faith for Protestant churches, while many others have dropped organized religion altogether in a major shift in the region's religious identity, according to a survey released Thursday.

While 84 percent of Latin American adults report they were raised Catholic, only 69 percent currently identify as such, said the Pew Research Center in Washington. At the same time, Protestants have gained members. About one in 10 Latin Americans were raised Protestant, but nearly one in five now call themselves Protestant. About 4 percent of Latin Americans report they were raised with no religion, but 8 percent say they have no tie to any faith.

The survey, conducted between October 2013 and February 2014, outlines the challenge for Catholic leaders in a region that was once a stronghold for the faith. Latin America still has about 425 million Catholics, or 40 percent of adherents worldwide, according to the poll. But the exodus from the church continues. The losses were part of the reason for the 2013 election of Pope Francis, the former archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, who is the first Latin American pontiff. In most countries

of the region, two-thirds or more respondents held positive views of Francis. But the authors of the Pew report said former Catholics are more skeptical of the pope than those still in the church, with only a

at least a third of current Protestants were raised in the Catholic Church, and half or more say they were baptized as Catholics," the authors of the report said. Former Catholics who have embraced Protestantism

cent Catholics and 7 percent Protestants.

Uruguay emerged as Latin America's most secular country, with 37 percent of people saying they were atheist or agnostic or had no religious affiliation. Just



Members of the God's Assembly, Restoration Ministry Church react to the words of Pentecostal preacher Dione dos Santos in the Coreia shantytown, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. While 84 percent of Latin American adults report they were raised Catholic, only 69 percent currently identify as such, according to a survey released Thursday Nov. 13, 2014. At the same time, Protestants have gained members.

(AP Photo/Leo Correa)

majority of ex-Catholics in Argentina and Uruguay viewing him favorably. According to Pew, the percentage of Catholic-born people flocking to Protestant churches has steadily grown in recent decades in nearly all 18 countries and Puerto Rico where the poll was conducted. "In most of the countries surveyed,

most frequently cited a desire for a personal connection with God for leaving their original faith. Others said they wanted a different style of worship or a church that helps its members more. The most Catholic countries were Mexico, with 81 percent Catholics and 9 percent Protestants, and Paraguay, with 89 per-

cent of people from Uruguay say they're Catholic. The more than 30,000 face-to-face interviews were conducted in all of Latin America's Spanish-speaking countries except Cuba. The margin of error varies by country, ranging from plus or minus three percentage points to four points.

Mexico: Sinaloa cartel boss' son arrested

E. CASTILLO
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A son of alleged Sinaloa drug cartel boss Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada has been captured in northwestern Mexico, a federal official said Thursday.

Ismael Zambada Imperial, alias "El Mayito Gordo," was arrested in Sinaloa state and transported to Mexico City, the official

told The Associated Press. He spoke on condition of anonymity because authorities expected to make an official announcement later in the day. The official said Zambada Imperial assumed a more prominent role in the cartel this year after his father became the top leader following the capture of capo Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman in February. He is the third

of Zambada's sons to be detained in recent years. Jesus Vicente Zambada Niebla was arrested in 2009 and extradited the following year to the United States, where in 2013 he pleaded guilty to a drug trafficking charge. Serafin Zambada was arrested at the end of 2013 at an Arizona border crossing. He also pleaded guilty to drug trafficking charges

in September and faces a sentence of at least 10 years in prison.

The Sinaloa cartel is considered to be Mexico's largest drug trafficking organization, with a global reach as far away as Australia.

The U.S. and Mexican governments have offered multimillion-dollar rewards for information leading to the capture of "El Mayo" Zambada.

LATIN BRIEFS

AP: Colombia arrests Peru's lead fugitive

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Police in Colombia have arrested Peru's No. 1 fugitive, a businessman accused of amassing a fortune through money laundering of over \$200 million. Rodolfo Orellana was surprised by police early Thursday at a luxurious home he owned in the southern city of Cali. Cali police commander Hoover Penilla says Peruvian authorities had tipped of their counterparts in Colombia that Orellana had entered the country illegally and was staying at the residence. Orellana evaded prosecution for years, allegedly by buying off corrupt judges and prosecutors investigating the source of his wealth. Peruvian President Ollanta Humala said he's dispatching his interior minister to Colombia to negotiate Orellana's deportation.

Brazilian cops capture New Zealand killer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilian police on Wednesday captured a New Zealand citizen who last week fled his home country while on a temporary release from prison where he was serving a life sentence for murder. Federal police said in an emailed statement that they found Phillip John Smith, 40, in a hostel in the bohemian Santa Teresa neighborhood of this seaside city. Interpol and New Zealand police helped in the hunt for Smith. The fugitive was arrested and would be kept in custody pending extradition, the statement said. Smith left New Zealand last Thursday on a flight to Chile, where he had a layover and traveled on to Brazil. He had obtained a New Zealand passport using his birth name, Phillip John Traynor, allowing him to enter Chile and Brazil without raising any alarm.



Taste of Belgium's Revives Le Dôme's Style Swinging Brunch



PALM BEACH - The new Sunday Brunch served weekly at a Taste of Belgium is a welcome addition to the island's food scene, and a nostalgic tribute to the glory days of the late Le Dôme restaurant.

The owners of Taste of Belgium, formerly also the owners of the famed Belgian restaurant have recaptured the successful swinging, magic formula. Sunday brunch starts at 11 am and continues until 2:30pm, with guests leaving thoroughly satisfied, singing the chef's praises. The new Taste of Belgium brunch is served a la carte,



the waiters take your order from the special menu. Classic Le Dôme's favorites are listed with new and exciting options, paired with bubbly mimosas.

The menu is divided into breakfast, hot and cold lunch items, as well as desserts.

If you wish to start with a chocolate mousse and finish with scrambled eggs with salmon or the other way round, it's all possible. Order whatever you like, the staff is there to make you happy.

Menu highlights include Omelette Bruxelles; hot appetizers, Escargots Le Dôme, Croquette de Cervettes & Fromage; cold appetizers, Tataki de Thon or Carpaccio de Boeuf; main courses Poulet à la Kriek, Carbonades Flamandes, or Médallions de Fromage Bleu and for dessert Moulleux Lava Cake, or Profiteroles, just to name a few.

Please note that brunch will be served every Sunday until December 14th, then the swinging affair resumes in the new-year, on Sunday January 11th. Reservation can be made at: info@tasteofbelgium.aw. □



Casa Tua Celebrates Ten Years of Excellence

ORANJESTAD - In honor of the restaurants' 10th anniversary, the students of EPB, enrolled in the local basic culinary professional stream were treated to a special event at Casa Tua, Renaissance Marketplace. Twenty-one top students were invited for an informal pizza making workshop with the expert Casa Tua chefs, LIVE in the restaurant's exhibition kitchen. Their audience, friends and fans of Casa Tua, including the island's Minister of Education, press members, and dignitaries got to enjoy their gourmet



Victor's two sons Gregory and David, practically grew up in the kitchen and became the creative minds behind Casa Tua, literally translated as 'your home, ' and both restaurants serve the by-now-famous thin-crust pizza, in their own unique environment. As the brick oven keeps



study materials. It was the restaurant's way of supporting education and culinary development, helping raise and nurture local kitchen talent. The Nataf family, who owns the two Casa Tua Restaurants on the island, traces its culinary roots to the south of France, to Provence, the famed region sandwiched between the French Alps and the French Riviera. It was there, in 1961, in the idyllic little town of Montpellier, that Michel Nataf, the first of the four first-generation Nataf siblings, was introduced to the secrets of thin-crust pizza when he became the apprentice to the Pizza Master, an Italian Sicilian who made a name for himself baking a revolutionary-style pie. Michel taught his brother Victor and Victor taught the other brother, Serge, then their only sister Mo-



nique added her own French, Spanish, Italian influences, and some family recipes from around the Mediterranean and voila, over time the Natafs operated as many as 10 eateries, in France and in the Caribbean, where they relocated to open stylish establishments, two in Curacao, and two in Aruba. The second-generation,

the pies coming, patrons savor home-made pastas and classic Spanish and Italian recipes such as Osso Bucco di Vittello, Beef Carpaccio, Paella and Tiramisu, in air-conditioning or al fresco. For lunch, dinner, drinks and snacks Casa Tua is your home, and the well trained staff is happy to serve elegantly, and with a smile. □



just-made pizza for lunch, and declared it incredibly delicious. Brothers David & Gregory Nataf who run the family business decided to celebrate their anniversary by staging a culinary event, involving the island's future chefs. They invited the students and their teaches, also providing the round trip transportation. At the end of the fun learning experience, they pledged a contribution to the school's media room, in the form of



Loyal Visitors Honored at the Marriott Ocean Club



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly Visitor of Aruba, at the Marriott Ocean Club, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name

of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Robyn and John Lawson of Florida, and Gene and Patrice Honsberger of New Jersey. They are all loyal members of the Marriott Ocean

Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants, and because Aruba feels like a second home. The certificates were presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority. □

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Timothy and Jane Honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority

EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Timothy and Jane Daly were honored as Distinguished Visitors after returning to Aruba for more than 19 years consecutive. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for

between 10-and-19 years consecutive. Mr. Ricardo Croes representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Costa Linda Resort. Jane commented that she will never change her vacation island for any other island. Their top reasons for returning were they

consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island", the great weather, and friendly Aruban hospitality, white sand beaches and the local food. On the pictures are Mr. Croes from ATA, together with Timothy and Jane and Staff of the Costa Linda Resort. □





Britain's Andy Murray holds his face in a towel during a break in his singles ATP World Tour Finals tennis match against Switzerland's Roger Federer at the O2 Arena in London, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014.
Associated Press

Roger Federer Thrashes Andy Murray at the ATP Finals

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

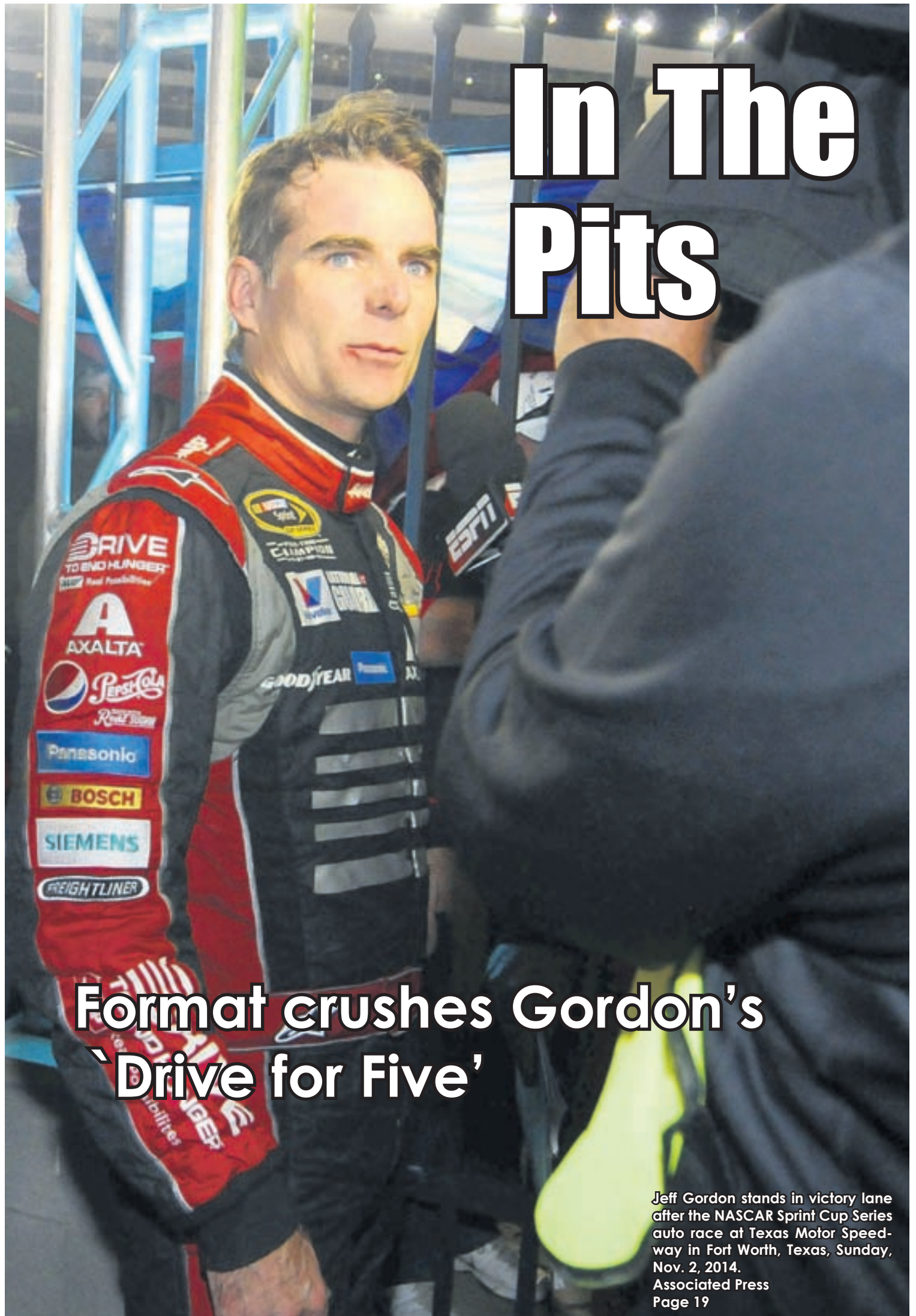
LONDON (AP) — Roger Federer blew away Andy Murray 6-0, 6-1 to finish the ATP Finals round-robin unbeaten, and hand Murray his worst defeat in seven years in front of his home crowd on Thursday.

Federer, the most successful player at the year-end championship with six titles, equaled Ivan Lendl's record of 12 semifinal appearances in winning his group ahead of Japanese debutant Kei Nishikori.

"I knew I was qualified, so maybe I went in a bit more relaxed," Federer said. "It's not the way I thought it was going to go, but there's always next year for Andy."

It was a ruthless win for Federer, and humiliation for Murray, who last won only one game in 2007 at Miami, against Novak Djokovic.

Continued on next page



In The Pits

Format crushes Gordon's 'Drive for Five'

Jeff Gordon stands in victory lane after the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014.
Associated Press
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NHL Capsules

Ducks rally past Kings for 6-5 shootout victory

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Ryan Kesler netted two third-period goals and scored again in the shoot-out, leading the Anaheim Ducks past the Los Angeles Kings 6-5 on Wednesday night in the first Freeway Faceoff of the season.

Ryan Getzlaf scored the tying goal with 1:39 left in regulation as Anaheim survived a dramatic finish to the Southern California rivals' first meeting since the Kings beat the Ducks in seven grueling second-round playoff games last spring. Marian Gaborik and Justin Williams scored third-period goals for the defending Stanley Cup champions,

who blew a two-goal lead in the final six minutes of regulation. Jakob Silfverberg scored his first goal of the season before putting a shootout goal past Jonathan Quick, who stopped 44 shots for Los Angeles. Anze Kopitar scored his first penalty-shot goal and matched Drew Doughty with a goal and an assist apiece for the Kings. Jason LaBarbera made 14 saves for Anaheim after relieving Frederik Andersen, stopping Jeff Carter and Kopitar in the shootout.

MAPLE LEAFS 6, BRUINS 1 TORONTO (AP) — Phil Kessel scored twice, and Toronto tallied four goals dur-



Los Angeles Kings goalie Jonathan Quick, bottom, blocks a shot by Anaheim Ducks center William Karlsson during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Anaheim, Calif., Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014.
Associated Press

ing a nine-minute stretch to chase Vezina Trophy-winner Tuukka Rask and rout Boston. Kessel now has 10 goals this season. Morgan Rielly, Tyler

Bozak, James van Riemsdyk and Peter Holland also scored for the Maple Leafs. Jonathan Bernier made 25 saves despite not being tested much.

Rask allowed four goals on 16 shots before being replaced by backup Niklas Svedberg in the second period. Dennis Seidenberg scored Boston's only goal.

ATP Finals

continued from page 17

"It was a tough night. I've lost slam finals and stuff, which has been very tough," Murray said. "But in terms of the way the match went, it was not ideal from my side of the court, far from it."

In the other group, Djokovic will be guaranteed the year-end No. 1 ranking for the third time in four years if he beats Tomas Berdych on Friday. Going into the last round-robin matches, all four players can still make it to the semis; U.S. Open champ Marin Cilic takes on Australian Open champ Stan Wawrinka. Before playing Murray, the second-seeded Federer had already secured a semis berth after Nishikori defeated David Ferrer 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in the afternoon. That left Murray needing to defeat the 17-Grand Slam champion in straight sets to make it to the last four at the O2 Arena and thwart Nishikori.

But Federer, yet to drop a set, made a perfect start, losing only eight points in a 23-minute first set without even serving well.

Murray, who fought hard this autumn to qualify for the season finale, continued to struggle in the second set. Federer opened a 5-0 lead and moved 30-0 up on Murray's service but missed an easy volley before the Scot managed to hold to salvage some pride, and give British fans a cheer.

"If I played well, he probably still would have won anyway," the fifth-seeded Murray said. "He was striking the ball very, very clean. After the first few games of the match, he played exceptionally well. Made very few mistakes. Was hitting the ball off the middle of the racket on serve, returns. He maybe didn't hit his first serve as well as he can, but apart from that, everything else was very clean."

Nishikori, the U.S. Open runner-up, is one of the three debutants at the tourna-



Japan's Kei Nishikori plays a return to Spain's David Ferrer during their ATP World Tour tennis finals match at the O2 arena in London, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014.
Associated Press

ment. He was rapt to advance at Ferrer's expense. "The final set was almost perfect," said Nishikori, who hit 41 winners and won 80 percent of his first-service points. The Spaniard, who replaced the injured Milos Raonic at the last minute, took advantage of Nishikori's 18 unforced errors in the first set and made the decisive break in the 10th game when the Japanese

player netted an easy smash. But Nishikori recovered to break at the start of the second set and served out to even the set score, making it the first match at the tournament to go to three

sets following eight one-sided encounters.

The fourth-seeded Nishikori won four consecutive games to start the third, and saved five break points in the sixth game before winning it with a drop shot.

Ferrer missed out on qualifying for the ATP Finals after his loss to Nishikori in the Paris Masters quarterfinals last month.

He said stepping in for Raonic at the last minute did not pose a problem despite articular problems in his back.

"My condition was perfect today, Kei was just better," said Ferrer, the 2007 runner-up.

The seventh-seeded Raonic withdrew with a muscle injury after losing his two group matches in straight sets.





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TONIGHT OPEN TILL 3AM

Format crushes Gordon's bid for 5th title

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — NASCAR's new championship format, lauded for creating nail-biting intensity, wild emotional swings and tension on and off of the track, has also been full of heartbreak. Dale Earnhardt Jr. had one of the best seasons of his career with an honest shot at his first career Sprint Cup title — and was eliminated in the second round of the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

Kyle Busch salvaged a mediocre regular season to put himself in position to run for the title. Then he was wrecked from behind at Talladega, and what seemed like a sure bet for the third round of the Chase went bust. He was suddenly knocked out of the field.

Brad Keselowski won the most races in the regular season and picked up victories in each of the first two rounds of the Chase. One came at Talladega, where he had to win to avoid elimination and did it as the entire garage area seemed to turn on him for his aggressive driving. Involved in two post-race fights during this Chase, he never flinched. But a mechanical problem at Martinsville doomed Keselowski, who was knocked out Sunday despite his series-best six wins this season.

With those failures comes disappointment, maybe devastation. All of them hurt.

None, though, are as heart-

breaking as Jeff Gordon's defeat.

This was his year, his throw-back season to the days when ol' JG was a legitimate threat to win every single week. He so badly wanted a fifth championship that he recommitted himself to his craft and raced like he hadn't raced in years.

Chasing the championship that has eluded him since he picked up his fourth title in 2001 wasn't an easy decision, either. He and his wife, Ingrid, had a heart-to-heart talk about the commitment that goes into winning a championship. Gordon explained that winning a title means making tremendous sacrifices at home. He'd need to be in the Hendrick Motorsports shop, he'd need to attend competition meetings. He'd have to miss days at home during the week if the team wanted to test, and he would need to be fanatical about his fitness and extra cognizant of his creaky back.

All of it would come at the cost of time spent with his wife and two young children. To win, Gordon could not with good conscience have his team question if there was something more the driver could be contributing.

Ingrid told her husband, without hesitation, to go for it. He did, and at 43 years old and 19 years removed from his first championship, Jeff Gordon was back.

He won at Kansas, at Michigan, at Dover in the Chase, and oh, that treasured



Jeff Gordon looks up as he waits to give an interview after the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014.

Associated Press

Brickyard 400 win at Indianapolis Motor Speedway 20 years after he won NASCAR's inaugural race at the storied track. Gordon's laps led are the most since 2007, the last legitimate title shot he had before this season.

His average starting position and average finishing position were the highest in years, and he led in points for 20 of 35 weeks.

And yet Gordon is out, eliminated Sunday after a second-place finish at Phoenix.

When Gordon crossed the finish line, he'd made it to the final four of NASCAR's playoffs and would race for the title this weekend at Homestead-Miami Speedway. But it flipped in the blink of an eye when Ryan Newman, needing just one spot on the track to bump Gordon out of the finale, used an aggressive move on Kyle Larson coming out of the final turn. Newman, winless on the season and with just four top-five finishes

and 41 laps led all year, finished 11th — good enough to give him a one-point advantage over Gordon and claim the fourth and final spot at Homestead.

Gordon didn't blame Newman for his last-lap act of desperation. He has been around long enough to understand you play with the format you're given and do everything needed to make it work in your favor. Only Gordon did just that and the format crushed him.

He finished second to teammate Earnhardt at Martinsville, where Hendrick quite clearly had no team orders to have Earnhardt allow Gordon to win the race and earn the automatic berth in the finale. And he was second again at Phoenix, where winner Kevin Harvick used the victory to punch his ticket to Homestead.

The dagger was the middle race, last week at Texas, where Gordon was actually en route to victory lane

when his season came crashing down. He was leading that race and nobody was catching up, but a caution came out and allowed the field a shot at stealing the win away from him.

He lined up on a restart next to teammate Jimmie Johnson and raced him hard into the corner. Enough space was left between the two cars that Keselowski believed he could slip in and snag the lead from Gordon. The hole closed fast, Gordon and Keselowski touched, and Gordon was left with a flat tire.

Gordon went from having Homestead in his grasp to a 29th-place finish. It dropped him from first to fourth in the standings and made him vulnerable at Phoenix, something he instantly recognized based on his decision to confront Keselowski on pit road in a scene that quickly became a bloody brawl.

Keselowski has steadfastly defended his driving at Texas, and said what happened there was just one of them racing deals. But he knows in his heart that Gordon deserved to be in the finale and that one moment destroyed something Gordon had worked so hard for and so desperately wanted.

Keselowski will now live with that forever.

And so will Gordon.

"It's tough to swallow that two second-place finishes and staring down a potential win last week, that we didn't get it done," he said.

□



A confident Algieri heads to Macau for Pacquiao

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — In the days before his last fight — a stunning upset few in boxing saw coming — Chris Algieri worked his regular job as a personal trainer. At night he went home to his parents' house on Long Island, where he lives in the basement.

Unusual for a fighter, but Algieri is nothing if not an unusual fighter.

He has an advanced education, a martial arts background and looks that make the female fans smile. He's also has a fight against Manny Pacquiao this month that, should he win, would make him not only one of the best stories in boxing, but one of the sport's biggest names.

"He's one of the greatest fighters that ever lived," Algieri said about Pacquiao. "But I have the tools and talent to win this fight. I just have to go out there and be myself."

Fresh off a training camp on the Las Vegas Strip, Algieri heads to China this week to fight Pacquiao on Nov. 22 in the gambling enclave of Macau.

He will arrive with an undefeated record and holding a title, but oddsmakers make him a heavy underdog against the Filipino who has long been one of the biggest attractions in boxing.

And he will do it largely unknown to all but the most avid of boxing fans.

"People seem to think I've come out of nowhere," Algieri said Tuesday. "I've been an underdog in a lot of fights, and this one is no different."

What is different about this fight is that it is bigger than any Algieri has ever been in. He's going around the



In this Sept. 3, 2014, file photo, boxers Manny Pacquiao, left, and Chris Algieri pose for a photo in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

world to fight one of the world's best fighters in a pay-per-view bout that, aside from a fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr., is about as big as it gets.

There's little outside of his height advantage and a very good left jab that makes anyone think he will win. But there is no one in his camp who doesn't think he is ready for both the moment and everything Pacquiao has to bring.

"Everything leading up to this fight has been a kind of dress rehearsal for the big show," Algieri said. "But I guess we won't really know until the 22nd."

So far, at least, Algieri has outperformed expectations as he prepares for Pacquiao. His story as a college graduate who

wants to become a doctor has resonated with fans, and he's embraced his turn in the spotlight.

Just don't buy the pay-per-view expecting to see the light-hitting (eight knockouts in 20 pro fights) Algieri getting in any unnecessary ring wars with Pacquiao in a bout that will be fought at a 144-pound limit.

"It's genetic, I'm tall for the weight class," Algieri said. "I'm not built to go in there and stand in front of a man and trade bombs. Why would I do that when I've got length, I've got range, I've got speed and I've got foot work and defense?"

Algieri won his spot in the Pacquiao sweepstakes by getting off the canvas twice in the first round in June to narrowly out-

point Ruslan Provodnikov and win a piece of the 140-pound title. Algieri out-boxed Provodnikov, using his jab to pile up points and win the decision on two of the three ringside scorecards.

That got him a belt and the Pacquiao fight, if not the respect of everyone in boxing.

That includes Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, who suggested last month that Pacquiao's sparring partners were better than Algieri.

"He's wasting his time. I don't even read those reports," Algieri said. "Every day it's a new thing but they don't make a difference come fight night. Maybe it worked on other guys in the past, but it's not

going to work on me."

Just to be on the safe side, Pacquiao's handlers got a rematch clause in the fight contract should Pacquiao lose. And, while oddsmakers don't like Algieri's chances, the consensus is that Pacquiao is slowing down as he nears the end of a long and extraordinary career.

Algieri likes his chances both in the ring and as a new face of boxing.

"I would hope my win would elevate the sport to more mainstream with crossover appeal," he said. "We need to get more people watching boxing. I love this sport and the more attention drawn to any fighter, myself included, in a positive way is good for the sport." □

NBA Capsules

Davis powers Pelicans past Lakers, 109-102

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Anthony Davis had 25 points, 12 rebounds and six blocked shots, and the New Orleans Pelicans pulled away from the reeling Los Angeles Lakers for a 109-102 victory Wednesday night. Tyreke Evans had 19 points and 11 assists for New Orleans. Ryan Anderson and Jrue Holiday each added 17 points.

Kobe Bryant scored 33 on 10-of-28 shooting, one night after setting the NBA record for most missed field goals in a career.

Carlos Boozer had 16 points and Jeremy Lin 15 for the Lakers, who dropped to 1-7.

The Lakers were as close as 63-60 in the middle of the third quarter, but the Pelicans closed the period on a 22-12 run that included nine points from Holiday.

New Orleans outscored Los Angeles 60-34 in the paint and shot 54.9 percent compared to 41.7 percent

for the Lakers.

ROCKETS 113, TIMBERWOLVES 101

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Dwight Howard had 22 points and 10 rebounds, James Harden scored 23 points and added 10 assists, and Houston beat Minnesota in the NBA's first regular-season game played south of the border since 1997.

Howard, who missed the Rockets' only loss of the season Saturday against Golden State, came back strong. He was 9 of 16 from the field and blocked four shots in 33 minutes.

Trevor Ariza had 19 points and Kostas Papanikolaou scored a career-high 14 for the Rockets (7-1), who tied Memphis for the best record in the Western Conference.

With point guard Ricky Rubio sidelined indefinitely after spraining his left ankle last Friday, the Timberwolves lost their third in a row. Corey Brewer scored 18 points for Minnesota.

The teams played without

a problem nearly a year after a game between the San Antonio Spurs and Timberwolves was canceled because a short circuit in a generator room sent smoke and fumes inside the Mexico City Arena during warmups.

PACERS 81, HEAT 75

MIAMI (AP) — Chris Copeland scored 17 points and put Indiana ahead to stay on a layup with 43 seconds left, and Roy Hibbert had 16 points and 15 rebounds to help the undermanned Pacers beat Miami.

Donald Sloan added 15 points for Indiana, which has won two straight after a 1-6 start.

Dwyane Wade scored 20 for Miami, which trailed by seven in the fourth quarter before tying the game twice but never recapturing the lead.

The Pacers outrebounded Miami 53-28, and the Heat missed 10 of 18 free throws. Chris Bosh was held to a season-low nine points on 3-for-13 shooting.

Miami had three late shots at the lead, but a jumper by Luol Deng missed, Hibbert blocked a dunk attempt by Deng, and Bosh airballed a 3-pointer.

Indiana was missing six players, including four-fifths of its starting lineup from the last Pacers-Heat meeting — that being Game 6 of last season's Eastern Conference finals. Hibbert was the lone returning first-stringer from that rivalry.

TRAIL BLAZERS 130, NUGGETS 113

DENVER (AP) — Damian Lillard had 27 points and a season-high nine assists as Portland used a huge first half to hand skidding Denver its sixth straight defeat. The Trail Blazers led 84-50 at halftime, one basket from matching the team record for points in a half (86) set against Golden State on Jan. 5, 1986.

Portland showed no signs of fatigue, despite ex-



New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis dunks during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Lakers in New Orleans, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014. The Pelicans won 109-102.

Associated Press

Christina Kim leads Lorena Ochoa Invitational

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Christina Kim had two eagles in a 7-under 65 to take a one-stroke lead in the Lorena Ochoa Invitational on Thursday.

Kim eagled the par-5 second and 17th holes at tree-lined Club de Golf Mexico, the first-year venue after six seasons in host Lorena Ochoa's hometown of Guadalajara.

Kim also birdied Nos. 4, 7 and 16 in her bogey-free round. She won the last of her two U.S. LPGA Tour titles in 2005.

Spain's Azahara Munoz was second. She eagled No. 17 to tie for the lead and dropped back with a bogey on the par-4 18th.

Third-ranked Lydia Ko birdied the final two holes for a 68. The 17-year-old New Zealander has two victories this year. Lizette Salas, Gerina Piller and Pornanong Phatlum shot 69. Top-ranked Inbee Park and Lexi Thompson, the winner last year at Guadalajara Country Club, were in the group at 70.

Michelle Wie bogeyed three of the first seven holes in a 73. She won the 2009 event for her first tour victory.

Second-ranked Stacy Lewis had a 76, leaving her tied for 31st in the 36-player field. q

pending plenty of energy the night before in coming back from a 23-point deficit to hold off Charlotte at the buzzer.

Robin Lopez scored 15 of his 19 points in the decisive first half. LaMarcus Aldridge finished with 12.

Ty Lawson had 32 points for the Nuggets, who went on a 15-0 run in the third quarter and still trailed by 21.

WIZARDS 107, PISTONS 103
WASHINGTON (AP) — John Wall had 27 points and 11 assists as Washington held off Detroit.

The teams traded the lead on five consecutive baskets before Wall's jumper with 1:11 to play put the Wizards ahead 101-100. Marcin Gortat, who had 13 points and 14 rebounds, dunked with 38 seconds to play, giving Washington a three-point lead.

Rasual Butler had 18 points for the Wizards. His two free throws with 4 seconds to play put Washington ahead 107-103. Butler made seven of his eight field goal attempts.

Detroit lost for the third straight time and fell to 2-6. Brandon Jennings scored

16 of his 32 points in the first quarter.

THUNDER 109, CELTICS 94
BOSTON (AP) — Reggie Jackson had 28 points and eight assists, and Anthony Morrow scored 28 to lift injury-riddled Oklahoma City over Boston.

It was the second win in six games for the Thunder, who are missing stars Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook.

Jackson, a standout at nearby Boston College from 2008-11, posted his big game a night after scoring a career-high 29 in a loss at Milwaukee.

Rajon Rondo just missed his second triple-double of the season with 20 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds. Avery Bradley added 17 points for Boston, which had won its last two.

The Celtics went 9 for 33 from beyond the 3-point line.

MAGIC 97, KNICKS 95
NEW YORK (AP) — Evan Fournier scored a career-high 28 points and Orlando bounced back from a poor finish with a good one, handing New York its sixth straight loss.

Clayton Kershaw, Corey Kluber win Cy Young Awards

NEW YORK (AP) — Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw was a unanimous choice for his third National League Cy Young pitching award, and Cleveland's Corey Kluber edged Seattle's Felix Hernandez to win the American League honor for the first time.

Kershaw led the majors in victories and ERA and threw a no-hitter, going 21-3 with a 1.77 ERA for the NL West champions.

Now, the big question: Is he the Most Valuable Player, too?

The 26-year-old lefty with a wicked curveball will find out Thursday if he's the first NL pitcher to sweep the MVP and Cy Young honors since Bob Gibson in 1968.

As expected, Kershaw earned the pitching prize for the second year in a row, getting all 30 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America announced Wednesday.

"Pretty cool," Kershaw said after the MLB Network telecast.

Johnny Cueto of Cincinnati was second with 112 points, followed by Adam Wainwright of St. Louis (97) and World Series MVP Madison Bumgarner of San Francisco (28).

"As far as the regular season is concerned, it was a ton of fun," Kershaw said. Voting was completed before the start of the post-season. Kershaw went 0-2 with a 7.82 ERA in a Division Series loss to St. Louis, leaving him at 1-5 with a 5.12 ERA in his postseason career.

Kluber received 17 of 30 first-place votes and 169 points, while King Felix got 13 firsts and 159 points. Chris Sale of the Chicago White Sox was third with 78 points.

"I think I'm definitely surprised," he said.

His plans after the announcement were far from flashy. "Probably go home and give my daughters a bath," he said.

A 28-year-old right-hander, Kluber went 18-9 to tie for the AL lead in wins. He had a 2.44 ERA in his first full major league season and



In this Aug. 21, 2014, file photo, Cleveland Indians pitcher Corey Kluber, left, throws against the Minnesota Twins during a baseball game in Minneapolis; and In this Oct. 3, 2014, file photo, Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw, right, throws against the St. Louis Cardinals during first inning of Game 1 of baseball's NL Division Series in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

269 strikeouts, two behind league leader David Price. Kluber pitched consecu-

tive 14-strikeout games in September, the first to accomplish the feat since

Arizona's Randy Johnson in 2004. He became Cleveland's fourth Cy Young win-

ner, joining Gaylord Perry (1972), CC Sabathia (2007) and Cliff Lee (2008). □

Official: Taveras was drunk during fatal crash



In this June 1, 2014, file photo, St. Louis Cardinals' Oscar Taveras grounds out during a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants in St. Louis.

Associated Press

DIONISIO SOLDEVILA

Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — St. Louis Cardinals rookie outfielder Oscar Taveras was drunk at the time of his fa-

tal car crash last month in his Caribbean homeland, an official in the Dominican Republic said Wednesday. Tessie Sanchez, a spokeswoman for the Dominican attorney general's office,

told The Associated Press toxicology reports showed Taveras had a blood-alcohol level five times the country's legal limit when he lost control of his car Oct. 26 on a highway in the tourist region of Puerto Plata. The 22-year-old Taveras was "legally intoxicated when he crashed," San-

chez said.

"Until we have the opportunity to review the official report, we cannot confirm details," Cardinals general manager John Mozeliak said in a statement.

"While we are still working to obtain the facts, it won't change the fact that this is a terrible tragedy. □

Baseball Hall digitizes film of 1934 Japan tour

COOPERSTOWN, New York (AP) — Home movie footage shot during a tour of Japan by American baseball stars 80 years ago has been digitized by the Hall of Fame.

Officials at the baseball shrine in Cooperstown say future Hall of Famer Jimmie Foxx and his wife, Helen, shot the film during a 12-city, 22-game tour in November and December 1934. Among the other future Hall of Famers on the

tour were Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Charlie Gehringer, Connie Mack, and Moe Berg, a big-league catcher who served as an American spy during World War II. The 8 mm black-and-white film shows Ruth and other players on the field in Japan and includes footage of the touring players and their wives doing some sightseeing.

The video can be seen on the Hall of Fame's website. □

AP Exclusive: Drone sightings up dramatically

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government is getting near-daily reports — and sometimes two or three a day — of drones flying near airplanes and helicopters or close to airports without permission, federal and industry officials tell The Associated Press. It's a sharp increase from just two years ago when such reports were still unusual.

Many of the reports are filed with the Federal Aviation Administration by airline pilots. But other pilots, airport officials and local authorities often file reports as well, said the officials, who agreed to discuss the matter only on the condition that they not be named because they weren't authorized to speak publicly. Michael Toscano, president of a drone industry trade group, said FAA officials also have verified the increase to him.

While many of the reports are unconfirmed, raising the possibility that pilots may have mistaken a bird or another plane in the distance for a drone, the officials said other reports appear to be credible.

The FAA tightly restricts the use of drones, which could cause a crash if one collided with a plane or was sucked into an engine.



In this March 12, 2014 file photo, Brian Wilson launches a small drone equipped with a video camera to fly over the scene of an explosion that leveled two apartment buildings in the East Harlem neighborhood of New York.

Small drones usually aren't visible on radar to air traffic controllers, particularly if they're made of plastic or other composites.

"It should not be a matter of luck that keeps an airplane and a drone apart," said Rory Kay, a training captain at a major airline and a former Air Line Pilots Association safety committee chairman. "So far we've been lucky because if these things are operating in the sky unregulated, unmonitored and uncon-

trolled, the possibility of a close proximity event or even a collision has to be of huge concern."

The FAA requires that all drone operators receive permission from the agency, called a certificate of authorization, before they can fly their unmanned aircraft. Most certificates limit drones to 400 feet (120 meters) in altitude and require that they remain within sight of the operator and at least 5 miles (8 kilometers) away from an airport.

Exceptions are made for some government drones. The military flies drones in great swaths of airspace in remote areas designated for military use. Customs and Border Protection flies high-altitude drones along the U.S. borders with Mexico and Canada.

Jim Williams, who heads the FAA drone office, caused a stir earlier this year when he told a drone industry conference that an airliner nearly collided with a drone over Tallahas-

see, Florida, in March. The pilot of the 50-seat Canadair Regional Jet reported the camouflage-painted drone was at an altitude of about 2,300 feet (700 meters), 5 miles (8 kilometers) northeast of the airport. The FAA hasn't been able to find the drone or identify its operator.

In some cases the FAA has "identified unsafe and unauthorized (drone) operations and contacted the individual operators to educate them about how they can operate safely under current regulations and laws," the agency said in a statement late Tuesday. The FAA also said rogue operators have been threatened with fines.

Aviation safety expert John Goglia, a former National Transportation Safety Board member, said he's skeptical of some of the reports because most of the small drones currently being sold can't reach the altitudes cited by pilots. Still, "it needs to be run to ground. That means a real investigation, real work done to determine just what these reports mean," he said.

More than 1 million small drones have been sold worldwide in the past few years, said Toscano, the official with the drone industry group. □

Associated Press

Facebook again tries to simplify privacy policy

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — One more time, Facebook is trying to simplify its lengthy privacy policy — and make it much shorter — to explain how it targets advertisements to its 1.35 billion users.

The world's largest online social network uses the information people share on its site, along with the apps they use and the outside websites they visit, to show them advertisements deemed relevant to them. In the July-September quarter, Facebook report-

ed nearly \$3 billion in advertising revenue, a 64 percent increase from a year earlier.

Over the years, the company has faced concerns from users and from government regulators and privacy advocates that its policies are too complicated. Two years ago, it settled with the Federal Trade Commission over charges that it exposed details about their users' lives without getting the required legal consent. Last year, an independent audit that was part of the settlement found its privacy practices

sufficient.

Despite criticisms, Facebook is rare among Internet companies in that it seeks user input on its privacy policy and tries to put it in plain English. But it also has a vast trove of data about its users that it uses to show ads and measure how well they work, among other things.

On Thursday, Facebook introduced a tool called "Privacy Basics," a set of animated, interactive guides designed to show users how to control what they share on the site. Tips answer questions such as



In this Wednesday, June 11, 2014 photo, a man walks past a sign in an office on the Facebook campus in Menlo Park, Calif.

Associated Press

"How do I delete something I post on Facebook?" or "What do people who aren't my friends see when they search for me?" It also proposed changes to its terms and privacy

policy, which it calls its data policy. The new policy is much shorter and lays out how Facebook collects data and what it does with it, among other things, in illustrated subsections. □

Wall Street closes higher on quiet day

BERNARD CONDON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks wavered between small gains and losses on Thursday to close little changed as traders weighed generally strong earnings reports against the falling fortunes of energy companies. Indexes rose from the opening of trading following encouraging quarterly results from Wal-Mart Stores and the media giant Viacom, then flitted up and down most of the day. After four weeks of healthy gains for stocks and a series of record daily closes, the tepid trading was not unexpected.

"After a move higher so far, so fast, the market needs a pause," said Quincy Krosby, a market strategist at Prudential Financial. "We need another catalyst to move higher."

All three major U.S. indexes closed higher after a late-afternoon rally. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 40.59 points, or 0.2

rose 5.01 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,680.14.

A slump in the energy sector held back the overall market as oil prices continued to slump over fears that supplies will outstrip demand. Benchmark U.S. crude lost 4 percent and is trading at a four-year low. Energy stocks closed down 1.4 percent. They had fallen more 2 percent, but got a boost by a late-day report from the Wall Street Journal that Halliburton is in talks to buy rival oil-field service company, Baker Hughes, citing unnamed sources. Baker Hughes soared \$7.77, or 15 percent, to \$58.75.

In other deal news, DreamWorks Animation jumped 14 percent on a New York Times report that the toy maker Hasbro is trying to buy the movie studio. And Berkshire Hathaway, run by billionaire Warren Buffett, said it was buying the Duracell battery business from Procter & Gamble in a deal valued at about \$3 billion.

Jim Russell, a portfolio man-

ing big moves:

— Wal-Mart jumped \$3.74 to \$82.94 after reporting earnings and revenue that were higher than financial analysts had expected. The 4.7 percent gain was the biggest in the Dow.

— Viacom, which owns the Paramount studio, MTV and VH1, rose \$1.95, or 2.8 percent, to \$71.20 after its results topped forecasts.

— Amazon rose 1.6 percent following news that it had resolved a bitter, long-running dispute with the book publisher Hachette. Amazon stock gained \$4.97 to \$316.48.

Benchmark U.S. crude fell \$2.97 to close at \$74.21 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell \$2.46 to close at \$77.92 a barrel, also a 4-year low, on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

In other energy futures trading on the NYMEX:

— Wholesale gasoline fell

Twitter sets growth strategy meant to soothe Wall Street

VINDU GOEL

© 2014 New York Times

Twitter is finally learning how to go beyond a tweet to explain what it is doing, and Wall Street likes what it hears.

This week, Twitter executives laid out for the first time an ambitious strategy they hope will place its revenues on a par with those of Internet giants like Amazon and Google. And they pledged to more quickly introduce improvements and new features.

"We are working toward a Twitter that everyone in the world can get value from immediately," Twitter's chief executive, Dick Costolo, said as he opened the company's daylong presentation to financial analysts in San Francisco. By detailing its plans for the first time since its initial public offering last November, Twitter sought to address investors' concerns about the future of the company, which has experienced management turmoil, disappointing growth and declining use by its more loyal users.

The company's openness was a striking contrast to its past practice of speaking mostly through tweets and blog posts and avoiding discussion of unreleased products.

Before the end of the year, for example, Twitter said it would unveil better private messaging. The company also said that early next year, it would offer users the ability to shoot and post live video. Also in development are ways to show newcomers an instant feed of relevant posts and to show returning users a list of top posts that they have missed since they last logged in.

Anthony Noto, a former Goldman Sachs investment banker who joined the company as chief financial officer this year, took the lead in setting the new tone, acting as emcee for the investor event and dropping tidbits, including a highly speculative graphic of how Twitter could one day become a

revenue giant.

While analysts were impressed by the plans that Twitter shared, they said investors needed to see Twitter start to deliver on those plans.



This photo shows a Twitter app on an iPhone screen, in New York.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

"Twitter laid out a lot of exciting new product elements to improve the product, making it easier for consumers to understand Twitter," Richard Greenfield, an analyst with BTIG Research, said in an email. "The question becomes, Will the product innovations drive a significantly larger user base and greater engagement/time spent with the product? Time will tell." Debra Aho Williamson, a social-media analyst with the research firm eMarketer, had a similar show-me attitude. "It was a lot of pictures and diagrams and descriptions of what Twitter hopes to do," she said. The company is simultaneously trying to persuade Wall Street to accept new measures of success. Noto dismissed concerns that the number of posts on the service has remained flat at about 500 million per day. He said Twitter was focused on getting people to read more, not post more. "We really need to build a consumption-first experience," he said. The company disclosed that more than 500 million people visited Twitter every month but were not signed up for or logged in to the service, suggesting that there might be a large, untapped group of people who might use the service more and be shown ads. Twitter had 284 million monthly users globally in the third quarter. □



Trader Peter Tuchman, foreground right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks wavered between small gains and losses on Thursday to close little changed.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

percent, to 17,652.79, a record. It was the seventh record close for the blue-chip index in eight trading days.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.08 points, or less than a tenth of a percentage point, to 2,039.33. The Nasdaq composite

ager at Bahl & Gaynor, an investment firm, said the deal making helped keep stocks positive for the day. "It's another source of demand for stocks, and presumably from smart buyers," he said. "It's lent some optimism to the market."

Among other stocks mak-

10.5 cents to close at \$2.002 a gallon.

— Heating oil fell 8.5 cents to close at \$2.362 a gallon.

— Natural gas fell 20.8 cents to close at \$3.977 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In metals trading, the price of gold edged up \$2.40 to \$1,161.50 an ounce. □

Berkshire buying Duracell from P&G in \$3B deal

JOSH FUNK
MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writers
OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway is buying the Duracell battery business from Procter & Gamble Co. in a deal valued at approximately \$3 billion.

P&G, the world's biggest consumer products maker, had announced last month that it wanted to make Duracell a stand-alone company. P&G, which acquired Duracell in 2005, said at the time that it preferred a spinoff of Duracell, but that it

was considering a sale or other options.

The sale of Duracell to Omaha, Nebraska-based Berkshire Hathaway Inc. turned out to be slightly different from P&G's initial plans.

P&G will receive shares of its own stock that are currently held by Berkshire Hathaway. Those shares are currently valued at about \$4.7 billion. Offsetting part of that price, P&G will contribute about \$1.7 billion to the Duracell business before the deal closes.

"I have always been im-

pressed by Duracell, as a consumer and as a long-term investor in P&G and Gillette," Buffett said in a statement on Thursday.

P&G, whose products include Tide detergent and Pampers diapers, has been trimming its product lineup to focus on its top performers. After it finishes jettisoning more than half its brands around the globe over the next year or two, P&G has said that it will be left with about 70 to 80 brands.

Berkshire has been a significant P&G shareholder since the consumer prod-

ucts firm acquired Gillette in 2005, but the Duracell acquisition will use nearly all of Berkshire's 52.48 million shares.

Buffett has estimated that Berkshire's P&G stake cost it roughly \$336 million.

Buffett is always looking for acquisitions to help his conglomerate grow, but this stock deal won't use up any of the \$62.4 billion cash Berkshire held at the end of the third quarter. He favors easy-to-understand businesses that have a strong competitive advantage.

Berkshire already owns a

number of well-known consumer brands in its portfolio of more than 80 businesses, including Fruit of the Loom, Geico insurance, Helzberg Diamonds and half of the H.J. Heinz Co.

Author and investor Jeff Matthews, who wrote "Warren Buffett's Successor: Who It Is and Why It Matters," said the deal is a tax-efficient way for Berkshire to sell its P&G stock and avoid capital gains taxes, but he's not a big fan of Duracell because of the overall shift to rechargeable batteries. □

Wal-Mart sales perk up ahead of holiday

A. D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer
BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. eked out a rare gain in an important sales measurement in the third quarter as it reported profits that beat Wall Street expectations Thursday.

But the world's largest retailer issued a fourth-quarter profit outlook that missed Wall Street expectations because of expected fierce holiday discounting. The quarter also marked two full years of traffic declines at U.S. Wal-Mart stores.

Wal-Mart is a barometer of consumer spending and its challenges reflect the struggles of its low-income shoppers, who are being squeezed by stagnant wages and reduced gov-



This photo shows the rain-soaked handle of a shopping cart outside the Wal-Mart store in Mayfield Hts. Wal-Mart reported quarterly earnings on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014.

(AP Photo/Amy Sancetta)

ernment food stamps. It's also facing fierce competition from online king Amazon.com, dollar stores and

grocers.

The company is also wrestling with its own mistakes, like problems in its fresh

produce area and not restocking items on shelves fast enough.

Last month, Wal-Mart told

investors it was addressing the problems at Wal-Mart U.S. stores, which account for 60 percent of the company's revenue.

At the same time, it is scaling back its expansion plans for its supercenters next year and stepping up investments of its online operations.

To win its share of its holiday dollars, Wal-Mart announced an aggressive holiday plan that includes free shipping on the top 100 items and price cuts on 20,000 items. Starting Friday, Wal-Mart will start to match its online prices with Amazon.

"Being the price leader is an ongoing priority for us and a commitment to our business," said Doug McMillon, who took over as CEO in February. □

Toymaker Hasbro courts DreamWorks Animation

ANDREW ROSS SORKIN
MICHAEL J. de la MERCED
© 2014 New York Times
Shrek could soon share a home with the Transformers and My Little Pony, if their corporate parents are able to seal a deal.

The toymaker Hasbro is in advanced talks to buy DreamWorks Animation, potentially gaining a new big-screen outlet for its wares, people briefed on the matter said Wednesday.

Should a deal be reached

- and these people cautioned that talks were continuing and might still fall apart - it would mark a new chapter for DreamWorks Animation.

It would also come more than a month after the studio held talks with another prospective buyer, the Japanese telecommunications company SoftBank.

Under the current terms of the proposed deal, Hasbro would pay a mix of cash and stock, though an exact price has not yet been

determined, one of the people said. Jeffrey Katzenberg, the chief executive of DreamWorks Animation, is seeking more than \$30 a share, a significant premium over his company's current stock price.

Katzenberg, the Hollywood mogul who runs DreamWorks Animation, is expected to stay with the company, the person added.

In courting the Hollywood studio, Hasbro believes that it can find a new market

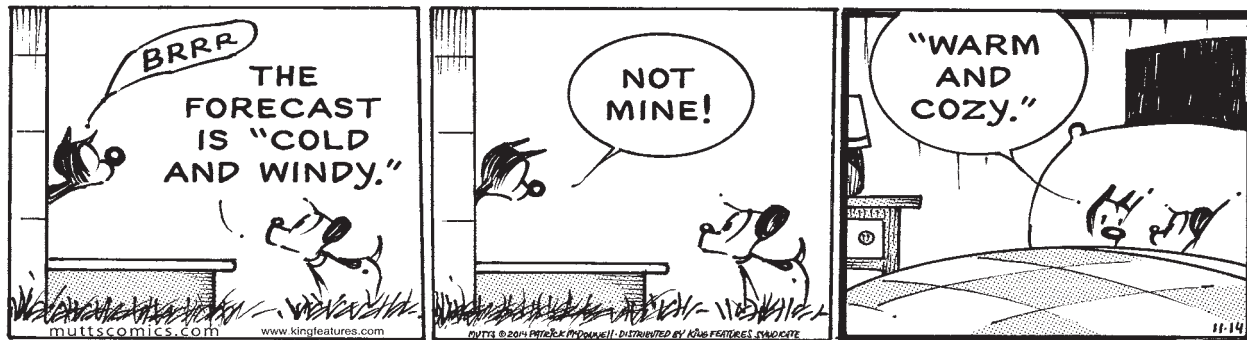
for its stable of toys, which includes Transformers, G.I. Joe and My Little Pony. The company, the second-biggest toymaker in the United States behind its rival Mattel, has reported robust sales in recent years. Last month, it reported sales of \$1.47 billion in its third quarter, up 7 percent from the same period of a year earlier.

Hasbro's chief executive, Brian Goldner, has long sought to take advantage of the company's proper-

ties to transform it into a global entertainment titan, notably by forming its own studio in 2009 to develop and produce television shows and movies.

One model might be the Lego Group, a privately held Danish company. Lego started with its trademark plastic toy bricks and transformed itself into a broader entertainment company by creating Lego video games and building seven Legoland theme parks. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



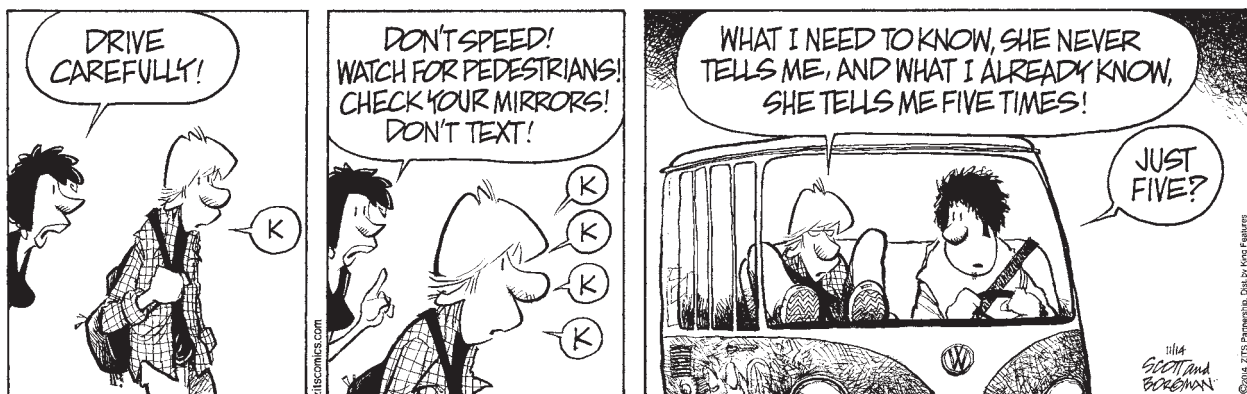
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3				8			6
	2		5	6		9	
			9				
4	9			2		5	1
	1	7		5			3
							4
				5			
	6		1	7		4	
8			6				1

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

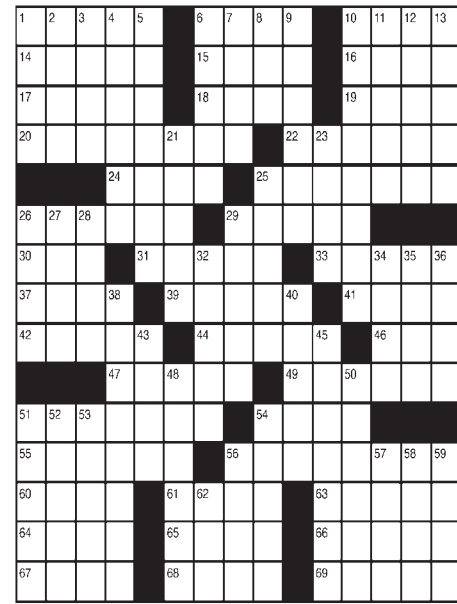
11/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

2	9	8	4	5	6	3	1	7
4	3	1	7	2	9	6	8	5
7	5	6	1	8	3	9	2	4
9	8	5	3	7	1	2	4	6
3	6	4	8	9	2	5	7	1
1	7	2	5	6	4	8	3	9
6	4	9	2	3	7	1	5	8
5	2	7	6	1	8	4	9	3
8	1	3	9	4	5	7	6	2

ACROSS

- Venerate
- Baseball officials, for short
- up; misbehaves
- VP Joe
- Webster or Wyle
- Genuine
- Happening
- Well-; not pink inside
- Fence opening
- Renegade
- "We are not"; words from a sourpuss
- Equipment
- Early textbooks
- Sound from a door hinge that needs oiling
- Supermarket walkway
- "Father, Who art in..."
- Uptight
- legislation; make laws
- Hairpieces
- India's first prime minister
- Scrabble piece
- up; talk more loudly
- Siestas
- Wet, slushy dirt
- City in England
- Joshes with
- Bothers
- Lahr or Parks
- Cookbook page
- Of the sea
- Common metal
- Swamp critter, for short
- External
- Location
- Ankara native
- Racer Al
- Clutter
- Observes
- Fannies



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/14/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

OWLS	OSCAR	PROP
FEAT	ROUGE	RODE
FAIR	GIRLS	APES
ARRIVAL	EERIE	EST
KEN	PATES	
ASSET	JAM	BEARD
CUTS	HAD	PESTER
MAR	MINDFUL	AVE
EVADES	LOB	ALEG
SEWED	TEE	BILLS
FADES	WAR	
SMALLER	TONS	ILLS
LAVA	ARDOR	HOOP
EXIT	LOANS	ITSA
WIDE	TRYST	PASS

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11/14/14

DOWN

- In the sack
- Shabby bistro
- Many of Keats' poems
- Go back on a promise
- Plead with
- Beneath
- Secure a boat with an anchor
- Sillet
- Scissors
- Quarrel
- Stop
- Spud
- Toboggans
- up; surprised
- 5,280 feet
- Docks
- Mama pigs
- Clever remark
- Egg on
- Blaze residue
- Eggheads
- Goals
- Helpful hint
- Koppel and Danson
- Soda crackers

- Complete; total
- Hold on to
- No-nonsense
- Builds
- Bring into harmony
- Light-refracting crystal
- Spine-chilling
- Glasgow folks
- Supports
- Additional amount
- "wrap"; line from a director
- Encounter
- Goes astray
- Regret

Holidays can trip up problem drinkers

© 2014 HEALTHDAY

(HealthDay News) - The approaching holiday season can pose challenges for the 18 million Americans with an alcohol use disorder, an addiction specialist warns. Binge drinking can cause a variety of problems, both social and health-related, including life-threatening interactions with some prescription medications, Dr. Eric Collins, an addiction psychiatrist and physician-in-chief at Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan, Conn., said in a hospital news release.

"It's important to be especially mindful of your alcohol consumption at holiday parties and gatherings, and also to keep an eye out for friends or family members who may be showing warning signs of drinking too much," he advised.

Binge drinking for men is consuming five or more drinks within two hours. For women, it's consuming four or more drinks in that time, he said.

"For those who are already struggling with alcohol use disorders, having a plan for holiday parties -- com-

ing up with a favorite non-alcoholic beverage or having a prepared rationale for why you're not drinking -- is one effective way to manage challenging social situations," Collins said.

It's important to be with other people over the holidays, because isolation can lead to depression, which might tempt you to drink. However, you also need to be selective about which holiday get-togethers you attend, he noted. Be careful about what you eat. Alcohol can be a hidden ingredient in foods, especially during the holidays, Collins said.

And keep busy with fun activities, he said. Doing so will reduce the risk that you'll focus on alcohol. Support is also crucial, so he suggested attending extra therapy sessions or group meetings during the holiday season.

Try to maintain your normal routines during the holidays, and get adequate sleep and exercise, Collins advised. More information: The U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism has more about alcohol use disorders.

Classifieds



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3 BEDRM OV \$27k
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GOLD Season

Oceanside \$9900
Oceanview \$9k
Oceanfront \$14.500k
3 BEDRM OV \$17k

Marriott Aruba Ocean club

GOLD Season
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2B Oceanfront \$14500
1B Oceanfront \$8500

PLATINUM Season

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FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
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SAN NICOLAS	
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**Foundation Amor
pa Prohimo**

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

**Women in Difficulties
Foundation**

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Study finds as world warms, U.S. gets more lightning

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lightning strikes in the United States will likely increase by nearly 50 percent by the end of the century as the world gets warmer and wetter, a new study says.

While those conditions were already known to promote thunderstorms in general, the new work focused on lightning strikes themselves.

Researchers calculated just how much lightning flashes increase as air warms, clouds fill with more energy from water vapor and rainfall intensifies.

They concluded that for every degree Fahrenheit the world warms in the future, lightning strikes will go up nearly 7 percent. That's 12 percent for every degree Celsius.

Because scientists forecast that the world may get about 7 degrees warmer (4 degrees Celsius) by the end of the century, based on current carbon dioxide emission trends, that comes to a 50 percent increase in lightning strikes, said David Roms. He's



In this Sept. 11, 2013 file photo, lightning strikes north of Macworth Island in Portland, Maine. A new study says flashes of lightning in the U.S. will likely increase by nearly 50 percent by the end of the century because of global warming.

Associated Press

the atmospheric scientist at the University of California Berkeley who led the study. "When you used to have two lightning strikes, now you'll have three," Roms said. "It's a substantial increase."

The researchers based their

calculation on 2011 weather data from across the U.S. They presented their results in a paper released Thursday by the journal Science. Roms said the key is that warmer air holds more water vapor. Water vapor is fuel for thunderstorms,

sparking more lightning. The energy that storms get from vapor is the biggest driver in increasing lightning strikes in the future, Roms said.

The new study shows that at any given level of rainfall intensity, there will be more

lightning in the future.

Harold Brooks, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration severe storm meteorologist, said the study makes sense and marks an advance over previous work.

The result is important mostly because it means more natural sparks for dangerous wildfires, which are already forecast to worsen with man-made warming, Roms, Brooks and other meteorologists said.

Lightning deaths have been falling from about 100 per year in the 1960s and 1970s to 33 per year in the last decade. So far this year 25 people have been killed, NOAA data shows. Brooks said the drop is because of people changing their behavior to be safer in storms and better medical treatment of lightning victims.

Michael Mann, a Pennsylvania State University climate scientist, said this study "is yet another reminder that there are likely some unwelcome surprises in store ... when it comes to the impacts of climate change." □



A woman wearing a mask walks out from a bus at the Central Business District in Beijing, China Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014.

Associated Press

U.S. pollution data on Beijing blocked on mobile app

LOUISE WATT

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — All the sky-clearing measures plus cooperation from the weather kept Beijing relatively free of air pollution for most of a seven-day Asia-Pacific conference. Then, toward the end as top leaders met, the smog crept back.

So, China went to Plan B: Censor the pollution monitors.

Many Beijingers get up-to-the moment updates on pollution — including levels of the dangerous PM2.5 particles — by monitoring websites and mobile phone apps. Usually these provide two sets of readings, one from Beijing city authorities and one from the U.S. Embassy, with the latter considered by many to be the more trustworthy.

But the Embassy readings were absent from some of the pollution monitoring sites during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference that opened Nov. 5 and culminated in a summit Tuesday of leaders including Presidents Barack Obama, Xi Jinping of China and Vladimir Putin of Russia.

One of the websites, Beijing-air.com, posted a noticing saying it had "received instructions from authorities saying that this month's air quality readings will be based only on what is released by the Beijing environmental protection bureau."

"Wishing the APEC meeting every success," the website added.

Chinese authorities went to great lengths to turn the

skies blue for APEC by closing factories and construction sites, banning cars on certain days and postponing the seasonal start of a coal-powered heating system.

For most of the conference the skies were so stunningly clear that "APEC blue" was coined by Chinese as a new phrase meaning "ephemeral" — "He's not that into you; it's an APEC blue."

By Monday evening, Beijing's levels of PM2.5 had reached nearly 200 — or about eight times the level considered safe by the World Health Organization — according to the U.S. Embassy figures, which were still available on Twitter for people who can log onto the Internet outside of China's Great Fire Wall. □



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Jim Carrey, left, and Jeff Daniels arrive at the premiere of "Dumb and Dumber To" at the Regency Village Theatre on Monday, Nov. 3, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Making 'Dumber' sequel more fun than the first

MARCELA ISAZA
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels made another "Dumb & Dumber" film because fans asked for it, and the two actors said making the sequel was more fun than working on the 1994 original.

"We were kind of just meeting each other as we were doing the first one," Daniels said in a recent interview. "You got two different acting styles going on — is it going to even work? And the first one, we guessed right, and it did ...

"Now it's just a lot easier. We know more, we know what's funny, we know the

two characters well — all the stuff we didn't know in the first one we already know in the second one, so we just get to do it again, only we hope better."

"And we were blood doping," Carrey added. "So that made it easier."

Daniels and Carrey reprise their roles as painfully dim pals Harry and Lloyd in "Dumb & Dumber To," opening Friday. Reuniting on a sequel 20 years after the original wasn't hard, Carrey said.

"Honestly, it was like we just did it yesterday and boom, we were back in it," he said. "It was a fantastic, familiar feeling."

Lawsuit fights George Lucas' lakefront museum plan

CHICAGO (AP) — Opponents of George Lucas' plan to build a museum along Chicago's lakefront have a message for the "Star Wars" creator: This is not the spot you're looking for.

A Chicago parks advocacy group filed a lawsuit Thursday to block the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art from being built along Lake Michigan. Friends of the Parks argues that the plan interferes with rules about keeping property along the lake open space.

Group president Cassandra Francis says members aren't against the museum, just its location along the lake.

The group, which filed its lawsuit against the city and Chicago Park District, also says the plans must be approved by the Illinois Legislature.

Lucas announced in June that he would build the museum in Chicago. A museum spokeswoman declined comment on the lawsuit.

Hilary Swank says Tommy Lee Jones is a softy and he agrees

MARCELA ISAZA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Academy Award winner Tommy Lee Jones wears more than one cowboy hat in his new Western, "The Homesman," giving him full control of, well, everything. He co-wrote, co-produced, directs, and co-stars with fellow Oscar winner Hilary Swank.

Jones is known to play tough guys and has built a reputation as someone you wouldn't want to cross. Yet after spending endless hours with Jones, Swank developed a new appreciation for the man of few words.

"It's so easy to stereotype people," the actress said in a recent joint interview with Jones to promote "The Homesman." "He shows what he wants to show to the press or to the world and yet he ... comes alive on set in a totally different way. He's a visionary, he's an artisan, I just was a sponge in his presence," she said.

Behind that dead stare and those grunts is a kind,



This image released by Roadside Attractions shows Hilary Swank, left, and Tommy Lee Jones in a scene from "The Homesman."

Associated Press

loving man, a "softy," the actress revealed.

"I don't know. That's not a word that I would use to describe anybody, much less myself, but it sounds positive right?" responded Jones. "So yeah, all right, I'm a 'softy'. Yeah, I'll accept that," Jones relented, cracking half a smile.

"He doesn't suffer fools. That's a really good way to say it," explained Swank. "I think his time is precious — all of our time is precious — and he just chooses specifically how he wants to

spend it."

For "The Homesman," Jones chose to invest his time as nothing less than a multi-hyphenate on the Western, which opens Friday. Other filmmakers have done it this way to save money, but that wasn't Jones' motivation.

"Well essentially, it has to do with a greed for creative control, to put it crudely," Jones admitted. "To put it a bit more smoothly, having any three of those four jobs makes the fourth one a lot easier."

Social media ineptness helped fund 'Behind Still Waters'



In this March 13, 2014 file photo, Chris Lowell arrives at PALEYFEST 2014 - "Veronica Mars" Reunion in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

LAURI NEFF

The Associated Press

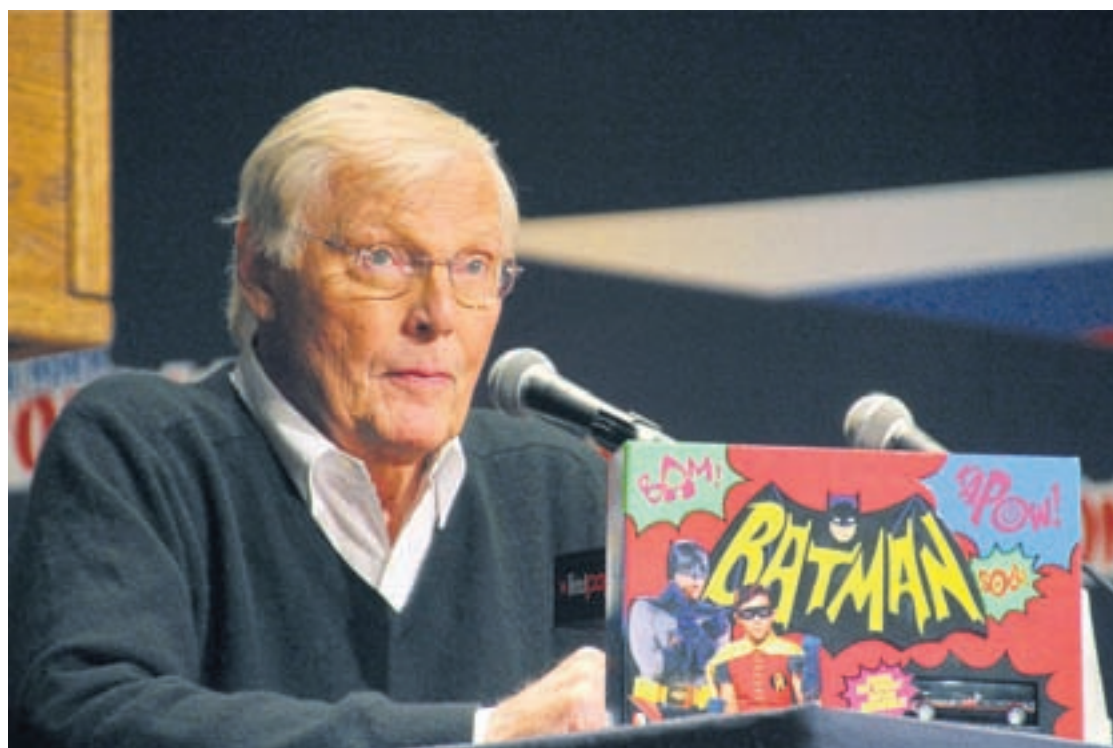
NEW YORK (AP) — Sometimes not knowing what you're doing with social media pays off. It did — lit-

erally — for the filmmakers behind "Behind Still Waters," an indie movie that was funded through one of the more successful Kickstarter campaigns.

First-time director Chris Lowell says he and co-writer Mohit Narang were so "inept" when it came to social media they needed help just setting up Facebook accounts and figuring out how to Tweet.

"I actually think in hindsight that gave us a huge advantage," says Lowell, who is best known for playing Stosh "Piz" Piznarski in the "Veronica Mars" TV series and film.

"I didn't realize that it was unusual to respond to every single Tweet I got or Facebook post," he says. "I think that personal connection, I think it became very evident to people that Mo and I, we weren't phoning it in, that we were really giving ourselves over to the campaign."



In this Oct. 9, 2014 photo provided by courtesy of Warner Bros. Home Entertainment, Adam West, speaks on a panel about "Batman: The Complete Television Series - Deluxe Edition" DVD at Comic Con in New York.

Associated Press

Adam West welcomes first-ever 'Batman' DVD release

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — No surprise: Adam West has an excellent sense of humor. The actor, after all, was immersed in a madcap brew of scenery-chewing villains and pun-filled dialogue in the 1960s TV series "Batman" and yet managed to portray the caped crusader as both in on the joke and properly superheroic. In a phone call to discuss the first-ever home video release of "Batman," which co-starred Burt Ward as Robin, Alan Napier as butler Alfred and Neil Hamilton as the police commissioner, West cuts drolly to the chase. "I'm so tired of people asking me, 'When, when, when?'" he said, feigning an air of annoyance about the pent-up demand, then added, "I'm totally delighted it's out now." Does the series, with its gleefully cheesy on-screen graphics and improbable plots, hold up after nearly five decades? "You are going to have three times the fun, at least. It's so beautifully remastered that every molecule, every pore, everything, you can see wonderfully," West

replied. With the video's clarity, he said, "if we ever made a mistake, viewers can point it out." "Batman: The Complete Television Series," available in limited edition Blu-ray as well as DVD and digitally, includes the 120 original ABC broadcast episodes with guest stars that ranged from Liberace to Vincent Price to Bruce Lee. Three hours of new content includes interviews with West and Ward. West said his favorite villain was Frank Gorshin as The Riddler — "Intense and manic and funny. He thought funny" — with Burgess Meredith as The Penguin a close second. He eagerly grabbed the role and the show, West recalled. "From the moment I read that first script by Lorenzo Semple Jr. I said, 'Sign me up.' I found it so amusing, so incredibly funny, but so exciting for kids that I just wanted the chance to cook with that character." As for subsequent movies that portrayed a bleakly troubled Batman, "They have the Dark Knight. I'm the Bright Knight," West said. Did he tire of being iden-

tified as the comic book character, particularly when he was trying to move to the next stage of his career? "If I can stop crying for a moment," he replied, drolly. "There were a number of times that happened," West said. "You get terribly typecast playing a character like that. But in the overall, I'm delighted because my character became iconic and has opened a lot of doors in other ways, too." West, 86, remains busy, focusing these days on comedy and voice-over roles, most notably on "Family Guy" as Mayor Adam West. He has homes in Los Angeles and Palm Springs, but he and his wife, Marcelle, spend most of their time at their spread near Ketchum, Idaho. (He has six children and stepchildren, he said, describing them as "his, hers and theirs.") "I love to go home and do the chores and read. We have a big place. It's just killing my back; clearing woods. Just finished building a barn," he said. With help, of course? "It's tough raising a barn by yourself," West said, impishly. □

Nick Mason shares insight on Pink Floyd legacy

JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — While Pink Floyd's first album in 20 years, "The Endless River," represents an end to the band's recording career, drummer Nick Mason shared some insight into the band's legacy.



This Nov. 3, 2014 photo shows Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason posing for a portrait to promote the band's newest album "The Endless River" in New York.

Associated Press

— SHOULD I CALL UP A JOB RECRUITER? "I've never understood it," 70-year-old Mason said of the band's longevity. "I keep being prepared to go out and find a proper job ... but some very curious things happen when the three or four of us play together. We produce something that we don't truly understand, but it works and it means quite a lot to quite a lot of people." MORE LIKE HERMAN'S HERMITS AND LESS LIKE GUNS N' ROSES Mason met former founder Roger Waters in school in 1963, but had simpler designs than the rich soundscape the band eventually created. "We started out as a pop group. We wanted to be on television, meet girls and all that stuff," Mason said. He described Pink Floyd's success as eventually "finding a way of working that worked for us."

STEPHEN HAWKING, POP STAR

On "The Division Bell," Stephen Hawking lent his synthesized voice to the track "Keep Talkin'" and reprises his performance on "The Endless River" with "Talkin' Hawkin'."

Mason joked about why the physicist returned to perform on the new release. "What I think was that Stephen Hawking was really pleased to have a new career as a pop star," he said.

"DARK SIDE OF THE MOON": DEFYING THE GENERATION GAP

Considered one of the best-selling albums of all-time, 1973's "The Dark Side of the Moon" remained on the Billboard charts for more than 700 weeks. Still, Mason says he was "pretty surprised" by the album's success.

He cites the timing of its release, the album cover design and support from Capitol Records as contributing factors. That, and the "great lyrics from Roger that were as relevant to a 15-year old as they were to a 50-year old." SHOT DOWN BY THE SEX PISTOLS

Mason recalls the band embarrassingly labeled as "prog rockers" and in the late 1970s being scorned by the punk music movement.

"I think Johnny Rotten had a T-shirt that said, 'I Hate Pink Floyd' at one point." He attributes the band's survival throughout changes in the musical landscape to "always staying slightly outside of the mainstream."

NOT EVERY SONG INSPIRED BY SYD BARRETT

Mason debunks the idea that Roger Waters wrote many songs based on founding member Syd Barrett.

"Syd was a catalyst for 'Wish You Were Here,' absolutely. It was sort of a poignant moment that focused attention. □

The Lame-Duck Dynasty



GAIL COLLINS
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How am I going to get you interested in the lame-duck Congress? Did you even know they came back? Perhaps it's like reports that Randy Jackson is leaving "American Idol" - the amazing news is that "American Idol" is still on the air.

See? You're already a little more engaged because I mentioned an old hit television show. Desperate times call for desperate measures.

There actually is an interesting "American Idol" story abroad in the political world these days. Season 2 runner-up Clay Aiken ran as a Democrat for Congress in North Carolina this year. It was an effort so improbable that it inspired little hope even among Democrats who believed their party was going to do very well in the elections. And, indeed, Aiken lost by 18 percentage points. Although he turned out to be a sort of a winner, since he was secretly filming his entire adventure for a four-part reality TV series for the Esquire Network.

Perhaps you did not even know there was an Esquire Network, although its programming, which includes "Brew Dogs," "Friday Night Tykes" and "White Collar Brawlers" is currently available in more than 74 million American households.

Some of Aiken's donors demanded that their faces be blotted out of what the creators like to refer to as the "documentary." Really, you should not drag innocent bystanders into your reality TV show. People should be more considerate, like Sens. Martin Heinrich and Jeff Flake, who staged their "Rival Survival" show on a deserted island, where there was absolutely nobody for the camera to film except the two politicians.

The theme of "Rival Survival," which aired recently on the Discovery Channel ("Naked and Afraid," "Dude, You're Screwed," "Moonshiners"), was whether two lawmakers from opposing parties could get along when left alone on a remote island with no food, water or shelter. And the answer was: Yes! Heinrich and Flake got along great. They also proved incapable of building a proper camp, boiling water or catching any fish. I believe there is an important metaphor in there somewhere.

But about the lame-duck Congress.

The House and Senate are back. Much like "Rival Survival," the big suspense involves whether the chastened Democrats and empowered Republicans will man-

age to work together.

On Wednesday, the initial answer was: For sure! "I have been able to strike compromise with my Republican colleagues, and I'm ready to do it again," said the Senate majority leader, Harry Reid, when the Senate staggered back into session. Reid said Congress should listen to the will of the voters - who, he noted quickly, had voted in four red states to raise the minimum wage.

"Let's step back and focus on what can be accomplished together," said the Republican leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell. He most definitely made no mention of the minimum wage.

"Let's begin with trusting each other, moving forward and passing the Keystone pipeline," said Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La. Yes! Keystone XL. Landrieu is facing a runoff election Dec. 6, and she wants to send a message to her state that she knows how to help Big Oil.

"Elections have consequences," she said, calling for a quick vote on a bill authorizing construction of the pipeline. "And this one does. ... And one of the consequences is that a clear path for Keystone has been opened up." Wow. Who knew that was the message? Many environmentalists are violently against the Keystone project because it would carry oil to the Gulf refineries from the tar sands of Canada, which is particularly bad when it comes to carbon emissions.

The pipeline may wind up getting built anyway, but nothing is going to happen until a court case over its route is resolved in Nebraska. A vote right now by Congress would be meaningless, and it's a terrible moment to take a symbolic stand, since President Barack Obama was just in China, announcing an agreement on fighting global warming.

There's that. But then, on the other hand, there's an election in Louisiana. While Landrieu was demanding a vote on her pipeline bill in the Senate, the House was gearing up to pass exactly the same bill, under the sponsorship of Rep. Bill Cassidy, R-La., who happens to be her opponent in the Senate runoff next month.

There is also going to be a runoff for the House seat in the district Cassidy currently represents. The Democratic candidate is Edwin Edwards, former governor, former incarcerated felon due to a series of political corruption cases and former star of the reality show "The Governor's Wife," on A&E ("Storage Wars," "Duck Dynasty," "Bad Ink").

Maybe they could do a series about the Keystone Pipeline ("Tar Sands Tough Guys") or the Louisiana runoffs ("Bayou Blowhards"). Or the Lame-Duck Congress! Maybe the nation would get engaged if it could see the behind-the-scenes story of the appropriations process ("Fiscal Cliffhangers") or the day-to-day achievements of the House of Representatives ("Name That Post Office.")

All the world's a stage. □



Freud and the Middle East



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
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ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates - When trying to make sense of the Middle East, one of the most important rules to keep in mind is this: What politicians here tell you in private is usually irrelevant. What matters most, and what explains their behavior more times than not, is what they say in public in their own language to their own people. As President Barack Obama dispatches more U.S. advisers to help Iraqis defeat the Islamic State it is vital that we listen carefully to what the key players are saying in public in their own language about each other and their own aspirations.

For instance, the Middle East Media Research Institute, or Memri, recently posted an excerpt from an interview given by Mohammad Sadeq al-Hosseini, a former adviser to Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, which aired on Mayadeen TV on Sept. 24, in which he pointed out that Shiite Iran, through its surrogates, has taken de facto control over four Arab capitals: Beirut, through the Shiite militia Hezbollah; Damascus, through the Shiite/Alawite regime of Bashar Assad; Baghdad, through the Shiite-led government there; and - while few in the West were paying attention - Sanaa, where the pro-Iranian-Yemeni-Shiite offshoot sect, the Houthis, recently swept into the capital of Yemen and are now dominating the Sunnis.

As Hosseini said of Iran and its allies: "We in the axis of resistance are the new sultans of the Mediterranean and the Gulf. We in Tehran, Damascus, [Hezbollah's]

southern suburb of Beirut, Baghdad and Sanaa will shape the map of the region. We are the new sultans of the Red Sea as well." And he also said, for good measure, that Saudi Arabia was "a tribe on the verge of extinction."

We might not hear this stuff, but Sunni Arabs do, especially now when the United States and Iran might end their 35-year-old Cold War and reach a deal that would allow Iran a "peaceful" nuclear energy program. It helps explain something else you might have missed: Sunni militants burst into a Saudi Shiite village, al-Dalwah, on Nov. 3 and gunned down five Saudi Shiites at a religious event. Well, at least Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is in the modern world. No, wait, what is the name that Erdogan insists be put on the newest bridge he's building across the Bosphorus? Answer: the Yavuz Sultan Selim bridge. Selim I was the Sunni Turkish sultan who, in 1514, beat back the Persian Shiite empire of his day, called the Safavids. Turkey's Alevi minority, a Shiite offshoot sect whose ancestors faced Selim's wrath, have protested the name of the bridge.

They know it didn't come out of a hat. According to Britannica, Selim I was the Ottoman sultan (1512-20) who extended the empire to Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, "and raised the Ottomans to leadership of the Muslim world." He then turned eastward and took on the Safavid Shiite dynasty in Iran, which posed a "political and ideological threat" to the hegemony of Ottoman Sunni Islam. Selim was the first Turkish leader to claim to be both sultan of the Ottoman Empire and caliph of all Muslims.

Vice President Joe Biden did not misspeak when he accused Turkey of facilitating the entry of Islamic State fighters into Syria. Just as there is a little bit of West Bank "Jewish settler" in almost every Israeli, there is a little bit of the caliphate dream in almost every Sunni. Some Turkish analysts sus-

pect Erdogan does not dream of building pluralistic democracy in Iraq and Syria, but rather a modern Sunni caliphate - not led by the Islamic State but by himself. Until then, he clearly prefers the Islamic State on his border than an independent Kurdistan.

As Shadi Hamid, a fellow at the Brookings Center for Middle East Policy, put it in an Atlantic article entitled "The Roots of the Islamic State's Appeal": "ISIS draws on, and draws strength from, ideas that have broad resonance among Muslim-majority populations. They may not agree with ISIS' interpretation of the caliphate, but the notion of a caliphate - the historical political entity governed by Islamic law and tradition - is a powerful one."

In fact, though, notes the Middle East scholar Joseph Braude, most Arab Sunnis in Egypt, the Levant and the Arabian Peninsula in the late 19th century "were quite opposed to the [Turkish-run] caliphate they had experienced, which they saw as a kind of occupying force." It was the 20th-century Sunni Islamist groups, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood, that revived the idea, idealizing the caliphate as a response to their region's weakness and decline "and inserting it into mainstream religious discourse."

In sum, there are so many conflicting dreams and nightmares playing out among our Middle East allies in the war on the Islamic State that Freud would not have been able to keep them straight. If you listen closely, of those dreams, ours - "pluralistic democracy" - is not high on the list.

We need to protect the islands of decency out here - Jordan, Kurdistan, Lebanon, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Oman - from the Islamic State, in hopes that their best examples might one day spread. But I am skeptical that our fractious allies, with all their different dreams, can agree on new power-sharing arrangements for Iraq or Syria, even if the Islamic State is defeated. □

Weapons Directed by Robots Raising Ethical Questions

JOHN MARKOFF

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On a bright fall day last year off the coast of Southern California, an Air Force B-1 bomber launched an experimental missile that may herald the future of warfare.

Initially, pilots aboard the plane directed the missile, but halfway to its destination it severed communication with its operators. Alone, without human oversight, the missile de-

The speed at which these weapons calculate and move will make them increasingly difficult for humans to control, critics say - or to defend against.

And some scientists worry that with the aim of reducing indiscriminate killing and automating armed conflict, these weapons one day could make war more thinkable, even more likely.

Conventional drones are operated by remote pilots,

gion without oversight. The Brimstones also communicate with one another, sharing their targets.

Armaments with even more advanced self-governance - so-called autonomous weapons - are on the drawing board, although the details usually are kept secret.

"An autonomous weapons arms race is already taking place," said Steve Omohundro, a physicist and artificial intelligence

The Pentagon itself has issued a directive requiring high-level authorization for the development of weapons capable of killing without human oversight. But fast-moving technology already has made the directive obsolete, some scientists say.

"Our concern is with how the targets are determined, and more importantly who determines them," said Peter Asaro, a co-founder and vice chairman of the

New types of radar, laser and infrared sensors are helping missiles and drones better calculate their position and orientation. "Machine vision," resembling that of humans, identifies patterns in images and helps weapons distinguish important targets. This nuanced sensory information can be quickly interpreted by sophisticated artificial intelligence systems, enabling a missile or drone to carry out its own analysis in flight. And computer hardware hosting it all has become relatively inexpensive - and expendable.

The missile tested off the coast of California, the Long Range Anti-Ship Missile, is under development by Lockheed Martin for the Air Force and Navy. It is intended to fly for hundreds of kilometers, maneuvering on its own to avoid radar, and out of radio contact with human controllers.

In a directive published in 2012, the Pentagon drew a line between semiautonomous weapons, whose targets are chosen by a human operator, and fully autonomous weapons that can hunt and engage targets without intervention. Weapons of the future, the directive said, must be "designed to allow commanders and operators to exercise appropriate levels of human judgment over the use of force."

The Pentagon nonetheless argues that the new anti-ship missile is only semi-autonomous and that humans are sufficiently represented in its targeting and killing decisions. But officials at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which initially developed the missile, and Lockheed declined to comment on how the weapon decides on targets, saying the information is classified.

"It will be operating autonomously when it searches for the enemy fleet," said Mark Gubrud, a physicist and an early critic of so-called smart weapons. "This is pretty sophisticated stuff that I would call artificial intelligence outside human control."



A B-1 bomber deploys a prototype Long Range Anti-Ship Missile. The missiles are designed to select and strike targets without human oversight — an autonomy which has stirred protests from some who fear that an ethical boundary is being crossed in the push for technological superiority.

(DARPA via The New York Times)

cided which of three ships to attack, dropping to just above the sea surface and striking a 260-foot unmanned freighter.

The test was deemed a military success. But the design of this new missile and other weapons that can pick targets on their own has stirred protests from some analysts and scientists, who fear that an ethical boundary is being crossed.

Arms-makers, they say, are taking the first steps toward developing robotic war machines that rely on software, not human instruction, to decide what to target and whom to kill.

and heat- and radar-seeking missiles are directed by humans. But now Britain, Israel and Norway are deploying missiles and drones that carry out attacks against enemy radar, tanks or ships without direct human control.

After launch they rely on artificial intelligence and their own sensors to select targets and to initiate an attack.

Britain's "fire and forget" Brimstone missiles, for example, can distinguish between tanks and cars and buses without human assistance, and can hunt targets in a predesignated re-

specialist at Self-Aware Systems, a Palo Alto, California, research center. "They can respond faster, more efficiently and less predictably."

On Thursday, representatives from dozens of nations will meet in Geneva to consider whether development of these weapons should be restricted by the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Christof Heyns, the United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, last year called for a moratorium on the development of these weapons altogether.

International Committee on Robot Arms Control, a group of scientists that advocates restrictions on the use of military robots. "Are these human-designated targets? Or are these systems automatically deciding what is a target?"

In recent years, artificial intelligence has begun to supplant human decision-making in a variety of fields, such as high-speed stock trading and medical diagnostics, and even in self-driving cars. But technological advances in three particular areas have made self-governing weapons a real possibility.